LIFESTYLE COMMUNITIES

VS.

CITY OF WORTHINGTON

Deposition of

Jason Sudy

December 19, 2023



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	December 19, 2025			
1	Page 1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
2	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION			
3	LIFESTYLE COMMUNITIES,)			
4	LTD., ET AL.,)) Plaintiffs,)			
5	vs.) Case No.			
6) 2:22-cv-1775 CITY OF WORTHINGTON,			
7	OHIO,			
8	Defendant.)			
9				
10				
11	DEPOSITION			
12	of JASON SUDY			
13				
14	Taken at the offices of Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease LLP			
15	52 East Gay Street Columbus, Ohio 43215			
16				
17				
18	on December 19, 2023, at 1:11 p.m.			
19				
20	Reported by: Julia Lamb, RPR, CRR			
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23				
24				

1	APPEARANCES:	Page 2
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5	on behalf of the Plaintiffs.	
6		
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1	STIPULATIONS	Page 3
2	It is stipulated by and between	
3	counsel for the respective parties that the	
4	deposition of JASON SUDY, the Witness herein,	
5	called by the Defendant under the applicable	
6	Rules of Federal Civil Court Procedure, may be	
7	taken at this time by the stenographic court	
8	reporter and notary public by agreement of	
9	counsel; that said deposition may be reduced to	
10	writing stenographically by the court reporter,	
11	whose notes thereafter may be transcribed	
12	outside the presence of the witness; and that	
13	the proof of the official character and	
14	qualification of the notary is waived.	
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- 1 JASON SUDY
- 2 being first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,
- 3 deposes and says as follows:
- 4 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 5 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 6 Q. Can you please state and spell your name
- 7 for the record.
- 8 A. Sure. It's Jason Sudy. J-A-S-O-N,
- 9 S-U-D-Y.
- 10 Q. Mr. Sudy, have you ever been deposed
- 11 before?
- 12 A. I have not.
- 13 Q. I'm sure your counsel gave you a brief
- 14 rundown of the deposition process, but I'm going
- 15 to go over a few ground rules that will help
- 16 this process move quickly and efficiently. So
- 17 first ground rule is that we both speak loudly
- 18 and clearly. As you can see, Julia is taking
- 19 down a transcript of the record, and we want
- 20 that as clear as possible. Avoid none verbal
- 21 responses such as head nods and uh-huhs and
- 22 huh-uhs; so yeses or nos to my questions.
- 23 If you don't understand one of my
- 24 questions, just let me know so I can rephrase.

- 1 I don't want you answering a question that I did
- 2 not ask. And then if you need a break, feel
- 3 free to ask for one. The only thing I ask is
- 4 that if there's a pending question you answer it
- 5 first. Are those all acceptable to you?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Do you understand that you're here to
- 8 testify in your capacity as an expert in the
- 9 federal lawsuit that was filed by Lifestyle
- 10 Communities and Worthington Campus, LLC?
- 11 A. I do.
- 12 Q. And you understand that the lawsuit
- 13 centers around a property in Worthington that is
- 14 commonly referred to as the United Methodist
- 15 Children's Home or the UMCH property?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. So if I refer to the property, we're
- 18 talking about that property. Are you
- 19 comfortable with that?
- 20 A. Understood.
- Q. Okay. What did you do to prepare for
- 22 this deposition?
- 23 A. As I outlined in my report, I reviewed a
- 24 number of documents, including the 2005

- 1 strategetic plan, the 2014 focus area plan
- 2 update specifically for this property. In
- 3 addition, I reviewed meeting minutes for the
- 4 planning commission/ARB, meeting minutes for
- 5 city council. I read the staff reports for both
- 6 of those. I viewed the video as well for the
- 7 planning commission/ARB.
- 8 Q. Let's do this real quick.
- 9 A. And I visited the site.
- 10 Q. Thank you. I'm going to hand you what
- 11 we'll mark as Exhibit 139.
- 12 (Discussion off the record.)
- -=0=-
- 14 (Deposition Exhibit 140 marked.)
- 15 -=0=-
- 16 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 17 Q. I'm going to hand you what we'll mark as
- 18 Exhibit 140. I'll represent to you, Mr. Sudy,
- 19 that this is a copy of the expert report that
- 20 you authored dated June 15, 2023, but if you can
- 21 look through it and confirm that is, in fact,
- 22 the case, and that it's a true and accurate copy
- 23 for the record.
- 24 A. It appears to be so.

- 1 Q. You just listed off a number of things
- 2 you did and materials you reviewed that were
- 3 included in your report as having been reviewed
- 4 for purposes of the report. I just want to
- 5 confirm that that's the same answer to my
- 6 question, which is what did you do to prepare
- 7 specifically for this deposition?
- 8 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 9 You may answer.
- 10 A. I spoke to counsel, Christopher
- 11 specifically. I re-reviewed my report, relooked
- 12 at the meeting minutes, the staff report,
- 13 re-reviewed -- is that right? -- the council --
- 14 I'm sorry, the planning commission/ARB video,
- 15 and I visited the site again.
- Q. So I got that you reviewed your report?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Meeting minutes?
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. You watched the video from the ARB?
- 21 A. Correct. Yeah, planning commission
- 22 technically.
- 23 Q. Planning commission video.
- 24 Any other material?

- 1 A. Yes. The relevant sections of the
- 2 zoning code, the 2014 update that was the focus
- 3 area update, as well as the -- I believe it was
- 4 an ordinance to amend. I don't think it was a
- 5 resolution. The piece of legislation to amend
- 6 that section.
- 7 Q. Any other material that you can think of
- 8 that you reviewed?
- 9 A. I don't recall as I'm sitting here.
- 10 Q. Other than your counsel did you speak
- 11 with anyone in preparation for this deposition?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. I notice in your report that you have
- 14 not in the last four years testified in any
- 15 case. Is that accurate?
- 16 A. Yes, that is accurate.
- 17 Q. Have you testified ever in your career
- 18 as an expert?
- 19 A. I testify all the time as an expert in
- 20 front of planning commissions, councils, and ARB
- 21 boards, that type of thing.
- Q. Let me ask a different question. Have
- 23 you ever been recognized by a court of law as an
- 24 expert in anything?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for legal
- 3 conclusion.
- 4 Q. Let's go over your educational
- 5 background. Can you starting with -- we'll go
- 6 your undergraduate degree. Can you walk me
- 7 through your educational background.
- 8 A. Sure. I received a degree in political
- 9 science, a minor in theater and maybe a minor in
- 10 English -- I can't recall if that's accurate --
- 11 from Case Western Reserve University in
- 12 Cleveland.
- 13 Q. Do you have postgraduate degrees?
- 14 A. I do.
- 15 O. In what?
- 16 A. I have a master's in city and regional
- 17 planning from Ohio State.
- 18 Q. Do you have any degrees or formal
- 19 education beyond that?
- 20 A. I do not.
- Q. Do you hold any licenses?
- 22 A. I do not.
- Q. Did you ever hold any professional
- 24 licenses?

- 1 A. I used to have the AICP.
- Q. And for the record, what is the AICP?
- 3 A. It is the certification for planning.
- 4 American Institute of Certified Planners, I
- 5 believe.
- 6 Q. When did you have that certification?
- 7 A. I cannot recall.
- 8 Q. How long ago did it lapse or did you
- 9 terminate it?
- 10 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form. Assumes
- 11 facts not in evidence.
- 12 You can answer.
- 13 A. Ten years ago. I can't recall exactly
- 14 as I'm sitting here.
- 15 Q. Is there any -- well, let me ask this
- 16 question. Did the certification -- do you no
- 17 longer have the certification because you didn't
- 18 want it anymore, or was it terminated for any
- 19 particular reason, or why did it come to an end?
- 20 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 21 A. I decided to stop renewing it. As a
- 22 long-time practicing planner with a wide variety
- 23 of experience both teaching, and attending, and
- 24 speaking at conferences, I didn't find it was

- 1 very beneficial to me.
- Q. Does the certification -- does having
- 3 the certification allow you to do anything that
- 4 you would otherwise not be permitted to do as a
- 5 planner?
- 6 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 7 A. Not that I have encountered.
- 8 Q. Do you maintain any informal annual
- 9 training or continuing education for planning
- 10 purposes?
- 11 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 12 A. Yes. I attend -- every year I attend
- 13 local and/or regional planning conferences. I
- 14 also attend a number of national planning
- 15 conferences on a varied basis, averaging I would
- 16 say probably one to one and a half a year. I
- 17 speak at a lot of conferences, and I also still
- 18 occasionally do teach at Ohio State, which back
- 19 then would have been considered a certification
- 20 element, not sure if that still is since I
- 21 haven't been participating.
- Q. When was the last time you taught at
- 23 Ohio State?
- 24 A. It was five years ago when I was at --

- five or -- shoot. Hold on. I'm sorry, I'm
- 2 going to have to think about this based on the
- 3 COVID time. It confuses me a bit.
- 4 It was, I guess, approximately six years
- 5 ago when I taught there as an actual employed
- 6 member of Ohio State's auxiliary faculty. That
- 7 being said, in the last three years I've taught
- 8 numerous classes there, individual classes,
- 9 where I've been asked to come speak to
- 10 individual classes.
- 11 Q. So in the last three years you have not
- 12 been employed --
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. -- as a faculty member but you guest
- 15 lecture?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 MR. INGRAM: Mr. Sudy, make sure you let
- 18 him --
- 19 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- 20 MR. INGRAM: -- finish asking --
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 22 MR. INGRAM: -- his question before you
- 23 answer.
- 24 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.

- 1 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 2 Q. In the last three years when you've
- 3 lectured at Ohio State, what have been the
- 4 topics of those lectures?
- 5 A. Transportation and mobility, land use
- 6 and mobility, land use and technology. That's
- 7 probably the general sense. I can't recall
- 8 specifically at this point.
- 9 Q. Is there any particular reason you are
- 10 no longer on faculty with OSU?
- 11 A. Yes. And I would like to clarify I was
- 12 part of -- we had a shifting title. At the end
- 13 it was called auxiliary faculty. Whatever that
- 14 means. So it used to be adjunct and auxiliary.
- 15 They kind of shifted us around. That being
- 16 said, it doesn't pay very well, and it takes a
- 17 lot of time, and it became a situation where it
- 18 was just a little too taxing on my schedule.
- 19 Q. Any other annual continuing education or
- 20 ongoing presentations you make?
- 21 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 22 A. Maybe -- I guess in addition to the
- 23 conferences? Is that what you're asking?
- Q. Yes. Anything we have not discussed

- 1 already.
- 2 A. I don't think so.
- 3 Q. Let's go through your work history. Did
- 4 you work in any capacity between graduating from
- 5 Case Western and beginning your master's at Ohio
- 6 State?
- 7 A. Yes. A number of jobs, none of which
- 8 would be related to city planning.
- 9 Q. Let's start then after you completed
- 10 your master's. Where did you first become
- 11 employed?
- 12 A. I worked during my master's at -- in
- 13 several nonprofit city organizations as part of
- 14 the tuition reimbursement internship process.
- 15 Nonprofit might not be the exact right term for
- 16 all of them. I worked for the Greater Linden
- 17 Corporation -- Greater Linden Development
- 18 Corporation, and the North Linden Area
- 19 Commission, and I interned with the City of
- 20 Columbus implementing something they called the
- 21 UIRF fund, which I'm not sure still exists, but
- 22 it was an early infrastructure fund. Then after
- 23 graduation I worked for a firm called MSI which
- 24 is now known as MKSK, and I worked there for

- 1 quite a long time.
- Q. Do you recall how many years?
- 3 A. It was about 14 years.
- 4 Q. And what was your position or positions
- 5 with MKSK beginning with the earliest
- 6 position --
- 7 A. Sure.
- 8 Q. -- if that changed?
- 9 A. I began as an entry-level planner, and I
- 10 did a lot of GIS mapping and data analysis.
- 11 Then I progressed through sort of the planning
- 12 ranks. It's a small organization so we didn't
- 13 have a lot of hierarchy within that structure.
- 14 Became more senior planner, project manager,
- 15 went on to have several other roles in the
- 16 company, including the director of business
- 17 development for the company which at that point
- 18 was -- had expanded to three offices. And when
- 19 I was -- what was the title? Associate
- 20 principal I believe was where I ended there
- 21 which was again sort of next step up toward
- 22 being a partial owner of the company.
- Q. Do you recall what years those 14 years
- 24 were? 1998 to 2012?

- 1 A. That's it.
- Q. So after that you went to Side Street
- 3 Planning?
- 4 A. Correct. I started my own firm.
- 5 Q. Before we get to Side Street Planning,
- 6 what clients did you work with at MKSK
- 7 specifically that you recall?
- 8 A. There were many clients, and I will give
- 9 you the few that I do recall, noting that there
- 10 are many more that I don't recall, certainly.
- 11 Q. Sure.
- 12 A. Most notable for site planning I was the
- 13 contracted city planner for the City of
- 14 Hilliard. City of Hilliard at that point did
- 15 not have their own in-house city planner so I
- 16 worked to review all development review
- 17 applications for them and represent their
- 18 interests from a planning standpoint at all
- 19 boards, commissions and council.
- I also worked with the Village of New
- 21 Albany in that same capacity as their contracted
- 22 village planner first and then became city
- 23 planner when they were incorporated as a city.
- 24 Similar kind of thing. With New Albany it was

- 1 even more integrated as to a continual staff
- 2 role where we had standing meetings where, you
- 3 know, we would have half to an entire day per
- 4 week reviewing development applications, meeting
- 5 with clients, meeting with applicants, going
- 6 through the entire review process, attending
- 7 architectural review board, planning commission,
- 8 council meetings as well as representing New
- 9 Albany's interests on the Rocky Fork-Blacklick
- 10 Accord.
- 11 Other clients included Nationwide Realty
- 12 Investors where I helped do the master plan for
- 13 the Arena District; City of Columbus working on
- 14 the initial riverfront planning projects,
- 15 including North Bank Park. I also worked out of
- 16 state in a number of different communities:
- 17 Winter Park, California, Orlando, Florida.
- 18 Might not have been Orlando itself. I think it
- 19 was Winter Park. There were a lot of clients,
- 20 probably over -- at least over 50 clients during
- 21 that time period.
- Q. You mentioned for Hilliard and New
- 23 Albany specifically you were the contracted city
- 24 planner/village planner?

- 1 A. Correct.
- Q. Were there any other clients where you
- 3 served in that capacity that you recall?
- 4 A. While I was at MKSK?
- Q. Yes.
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Okay. Now, we can turn to Side Street
- 8 Planning. And this is a company you founded?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. Okay. Tell me about Side Street
- 11 Planning.
- 12 A. I went out on my own, and I really
- 13 was -- it was just -- it was just me mostly, and
- 14 then I would contract with other subconsultants
- 15 and/or team with other firms in order to
- 16 complete projects, and worked for a number of
- 17 clients there as well.
- 18 Q. Did you work for -- strike that.
- 19 As a -- as part of Side Street Planning
- 20 were you contracted as the municipal planner for
- 21 any particular municipality?
- 22 A. I worked in that capacity for Grandview,
- 23 Grandview Heights. I also worked in that
- 24 capacity for the City of Bexley.

- 1 Q. Any other municipalities you can think
- 2 of?
- 3 A. In that capacity?
- 4 Q. Correct.
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. How did your substantive work compare or
- 7 differ from what you were doing at MKSK?
- 8 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 9 A. It didn't differ substantively. I just
- 10 had all the responsibility.
- 11 Q. You were doing the same sort of planning
- 12 stuff. Is that accurate?
- 13 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 14 A. I would say yes.
- 15 Q. Is Side Street Planning an ongoing
- 16 entity?
- 17 A. It is not.
- 18 Q. Looks like 2016 was when -- did it close
- 19 in 2016?
- 20 A. Effectively, yeah. I closed it, yes.
- Q. And any particular reason for that
- 22 closure?
- 23 A. I was recruited to go work for OHM.
- Q. So you began work with OHM in 2016?

- 1 A. Correct.
- Q. And you're currently with OHM. Is that
- 3 correct?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 O. You had a stint elsewhere in between?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. Let's take from 2016 on. I'd
- 8 like to know your first stint with OHM, and it
- 9 looks like in 2018 you worked with HDR. So for
- 10 the first two years, 2016 to 2018, with OHM what
- 11 were you doing there?
- 12 A. I was brought in as a principal and
- 13 working on planning projects, running a variety
- 14 of planning projects.
- Q. During those two years from 2016 to 2018
- 16 when you were with OHM, did you serve as
- 17 municipal planner, contracted municipal planner?
- 18 A. Yes. I converted my Bexley contract
- 19 over to OHM.
- Q. Any other community?
- 21 A. In that capacity?
- 22 Q. Yes.
- 23 A. No.
- Q. Aside from your work with Bexley, were

- 1 you working during that time with other public
- 2 entities, private developers? What were you
- 3 doing?
- 4 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 5 You can answer if you can.
- 6 A. Almost exclusively public agencies: Mid
- 7 Ohio Regional Planning Agency, City of Columbus,
- 8 City of Whitehall, City of Lorain, City of
- 9 Newburgh Heights. Many cities and regional
- 10 planning agencies throughout this near region.
- 11 Q. So in 2018 you went elsewhere, right?
- 12 A. Correct.
- Q. Why is that?
- 14 A. I was recruited by HDR to work with
- 15 them.
- 16 Q. And I'm not as familiar with HDR. Are
- 17 they a planning company?
- 18 A. HDR's a multinational engineering firm,
- 19 whereas OHM is more of a regional engineering
- 20 firm that has also planning, landscape
- 21 architecture, architecture.
- Q. What did you get recruited to do for
- 23 HDR?
- A. I got recruited for a new division that

- 1 was specifically focusing on the integration of
- 2 new mobility technologies into land use
- 3 planning.
- 4 Q. Did you do any of that mobility focus in
- 5 your prior work with OHM, Side Street or MKSK?
- 6 A. Yeah, I had, particularly with OHM in
- 7 both transit and individual mobility and in
- 8 technology, yeah.
- 9 Q. With -- when you were with HDR, did you
- 10 continue doing your public planning work with
- 11 the public agencies?
- 12 A. Yes, less. To a lesser degree, yes.
- 13 Q. Did you continue your work with the City
- 14 of Bexley during that time?
- 15 A. I discontinued my work with Bexley by my
- 16 request as it was not compatible with my travel
- 17 schedule since I was doing projects all over the
- 18 country.
- 19 Q. With HDR did you serve as the municipal
- 20 planner for any other community?
- 21 A. I did not.
- Q. So you went back to OHM?
- 23 A. Correct.
- Q. And why's that?

- 1 A. Two reasons. The main reason was --
- 2 shorthand is COVID, and the second reason was
- 3 that that division that was formed was sort of
- 4 splintering with many of our core group going to
- 5 other entities and/or other areas within HDR,
- 6 and I was re-recruited to go back to OHM so I
- 7 did so.
- 8 Q. And you've been with OHM since?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. And you're a principal there?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. So since returning to OHM, you are
- 13 serving as the City of Bexley planner?
- 14 A. Correct.
- 15 Q. Do you serve as the municipal planner
- 16 for any other community?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Since 2021, have you been contracted
- 19 with any local public entity to assist with
- 20 anything?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 O. Which ones?
- 23 A. City of Columbus, COTA. Since what
- 24 year, I'm sorry?

- 1 Q. Since returning to OHM.
- 2 A. Since returning to OHM. Okay. Because
- 3 there are quite a few at HDR as well. City of
- 4 Whitehall, City of Independence, City of
- 5 Cleveland. I'm sure there are others. Going
- 6 through my roster of projects. I'm sorry, I
- 7 can't recall at this time others.
- 8 Q. Let me ask you for Whitehall. What were
- 9 you contracted to do for Whitehall?
- 10 A. We teamed with a firm called ZoneCo, and
- 11 we lead their rewrite of their zoning code. I
- 12 also had done some comprehensive planning for
- 13 them in my first stint at OHM that we built on.
- Q. When did you do the work for Whitehall
- 15 with respect to their comprehensive plan?
- 16 A. I can't recall the exact year. It was
- in the first stint of working for OHM.
- 18 Q. So sometime between 2016 and 2018?
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. Is most of your time spent working with
- 21 the City of Bexley or is there another
- 22 particular client that takes a majority of your
- 23 time?
- 24 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.

- 1 A. I split time. In the last few weeks
- 2 I've spent quite a bit of time working with
- 3 Bexley based on a higher caseload. In general,
- 4 it goes up and down. I have a retainer
- 5 contract. OHM has a retainer contract with
- 6 Bexley which they utilize for us. It's steady
- 7 with I'd guess you say lumps in it. There's ups
- 8 and higher times of work. I'm also working a
- 9 lot with City of Columbus and City of Cleveland
- 10 on a number of projects.
- 11 Q. For the City of Columbus, in particular,
- 12 what type of work are you doing for them?
- 13 A. We are working for the City of Columbus
- 14 as a subconsultant to another firm called
- 15 TranSystems on the bus rapid transit corridor
- 16 that is called the northwest corridor that goes
- 17 through Ohio State, theoretically up to Dublin
- 18 at some point, up Olentangy River Road. We're
- 19 also a sub to a firm called WSP on the downtown
- 20 mobility study where we're looking at how to
- 21 integrate the downtown transportation network
- 22 with ongoing land use and population changes and
- 23 transportation changes that are happening.
- We've been part of mobility contracts

- 1 for the City of Columbus as well as the -- as a
- 2 consultant on the bikeways planning update. I
- 3 think those are all the ones -- oh, and I just
- 4 started something called an ETOD project for the
- 5 northwest corridor, and that is equitable
- 6 transit oriented development. So we're
- 7 specifically looking at site planning
- 8 possibilities on five key sites along the
- 9 Olentangy River Road corridor for the City.
- 10 Q. Are any of those projects for the City
- of Columbus related to ongoing work for COTA as
- 12 well? I know they've partnered on a few things.
- 13 A. Sort of. The BRT project is being
- 14 co-managed overall between the City of Columbus
- 15 and COTA just by management -- the way they
- 16 decided to manage it was that they split off the
- 17 corridor. So the east/west corridor is being
- 18 managed by COTA. City of Columbus is managing
- 19 the northwest corridor, but the collaboration
- 20 takes place throughout the process.
- Q. Since returning to OHM in 2021, have you
- 22 been -- outside of this matter have you been
- 23 retained by any private developers?
- 24 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.

- 1 Misstates the evidence.
- 2 A. Have I personally? Could you rephrase
- 3 the question?
- 4 Q. Sure. You just listed a number of
- 5 projects or clients you're working with --
- 6 A. Right.
- 7 Q. -- all of which are public sector
- 8 clients. So my question is since 2021, have you
- 9 been retained or have you done work with any
- 10 private sector land developers?
- 11 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 12 A. I personally have not.
- Q. OHM has?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. What is your board and commission
- 16 experience? I know you're on the -- if I can
- 17 find it here -- Italian Village Commission.
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. I'll get to that in a second, but do you
- 20 sit on any other boards or commissions
- 21 currently?
- 22 A. I do not.
- Q. What is your role on the Italian Village
- 24 Commission?

- 1 A. I'm the chair of the commission.
- Q. And how long have you been on the
- 3 commission?
- 4 A. Now, about 20 years, close to 20 years.
- 5 Q. And is that an appointed seat?
- 6 A. It is.
- 7 Q. And you're appointed by the City of
- 8 Columbus?
- 9 A. Yes, by the mayor's office.
- 10 Q. And what is the oversight of the Italian
- 11 Village Commission?
- 12 A. We are an historic review commission
- 13 that is charged with administering several plans
- 14 relevant to the neighborhood. We have a set of
- 15 historic design guidelines that cover all of
- 16 Italian Village, and then we have a set of High
- 17 Street design guidelines which actually cover a
- 18 jurisdiction that's split between Victorian and
- 19 Italian Village, and we administer the Italian
- 20 Village side of that.
- Q. Are you a final decision-making body or
- 22 are you a recommending body or both?
- 23 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- A. Yeah, we are both. We are a final

- 1 decision-making body for certificates of
- 2 appropriateness, and we are a recommending body
- 3 for rezonings and for zoning variances.
- 4 Q. What types of matters do you see most
- 5 frequently for purposes of obtaining a
- 6 certificate of appropriateness in that position?
- 7 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 8 You can answer if you can.
- 9 A. That has shifted over the years as far
- 10 as overall it had been and sort of continues to
- 11 be one of the most rapidly evolving
- 12 neighborhoods in the city. So we saw a lot of
- large scale site plan review processes where we
- 14 would get multiple mixed use, multiple building,
- 15 variety of densities, styles, sort of all the
- 16 things you could get in a development of an
- 17 urbanized neighborhood.
- 18 On the other hand, we also get a new
- 19 back door. We used to get almost exclusively
- 20 new development and very few of the more sort of
- 21 watchmaker tinkering applications. Now I would
- 22 say we're probably a little more skewed toward
- 23 those while we have streamlined the city process
- 24 so they're able to give staff recommendations on

- 1 a lot of those smaller things they weren't able
- 2 to before. So I think we're probably about
- 3 split now between doing what I would consider
- 4 legitimate site plan and architecture review and
- 5 helping someone have a new patio in their
- 6 backyard.
- 7 Q. When you act as a recommending body on
- 8 rezonings, where does your recommendation go?
- 9 What process does it follow?
- 10 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form. Vague.
- 11 A. It -- for the variances it goes to the
- 12 BZA. For the rezonings I believe it goes
- 13 directly to council. I cannot state with legal
- 14 certainty that that is the process. I believe
- 15 that is the process.
- Q. Do you as the chair of the commission
- 17 sort of follow your cases to the next step
- 18 typically?
- 19 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 20 You can answer if you can.
- 21 A. Not really. I guess I could say that I
- 22 see the results if they occur in the
- 23 neighborhood.
- Q. Any other boards or commissions that you

- 1 currently sit on?
- A. I don't.
- 3 Q. Have you ever been elected to a city
- 4 council?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Have you ever been elected to any other
- 7 elected position or body?
- 8 A. Public?
- 9 Q. Yes.
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Have you ever sat on a board of zoning
- 12 appeals or a planning and zoning commission?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. I think I've asked this already, but let
- 15 me just double check. You've never testified in
- 16 federal court or for a federal lawsuit, right?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. Have you ever testified in a state civil
- 19 lawsuit?
- 20 A. No.
- Q. I assume you've testified under oath in
- 22 administrative proceedings before local bodies?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, we're going to turn our attention

- 1 back to your report which we marked as
- 2 Exhibit 140. Were you retained to do this
- 3 report by the Vorys firm or by someone else?
- 4 A. I was retained by the Vorys firm.
- 5 Q. Have you been retained by the Vorys firm
- 6 previously?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Have you worked with Eric Gardner
- 9 previously?
- 10 A. Yes, though I don't recall when.
- 11 Q. Did you speak with Eric Gardner or
- 12 anyone from his office during your preparation
- 13 of this report?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Did you receive any email correspondence
- 16 from Eric Gardner's office in relation to this
- 17 report?
- 18 A. I don't believe so.
- 19 Q. What were the terms of your engagement
- 20 with Vorys?
- 21 A. Paid hourly to prepare an expert report.
- Q. I assume you're paid hourly for
- 23 testimony?
- 24 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Were you given any instructions or
- 2 specific facts to consider as part of the
- 3 engagement?
- 4 A. Only the complaint which I read.
- 5 Q. Do you recall when you were engaged?
- 6 A. I do not.
- 7 Q. Was there a formal engagement letter or
- 8 proposal or agreement that was signed?
- 9 A. There is. There is one of those in the
- 10 record somewhere.
- 11 Q. Do you maintain a work file for work
- 12 like this?
- 13 A. I do.
- 14 Q. I assume that would be in your work
- 15 file?
- 16 A. I'm sure it is.
- 17 Q. What was the scope of your work? What
- 18 were you asked to do?
- 19 A. The scope was to review the application
- 20 materials, the relevant documents, the relevant
- 21 meeting materials, everything I've set out in my
- 22 report, and to prepare a review of the
- 23 application as it compares to the relevant
- 24 documents in the city, and to also give my

- 1 opinion on the process of review that the
- 2 city -- was undertaken by the city and compare
- 3 that to my professional experience in other
- 4 project review.
- 5 Q. Are you engaged with the Vorys firm as a
- 6 principal with OHM or individually?
- 7 A. Individually.
- 8 Q. Is OHM doing any work on this?
- 9 A. Could you rephrase?
- 10 Q. Sure. Is anyone else from OHM assisting
- 11 you in this?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Does OHM know you've been retained on an
- 14 individual basis to do this work?
- 15 A. Individuals at OHM do know that.
- 16 Q. Have you been retained in your personal
- 17 capacity to provide expert services since
- 18 returning to OHM in 2021 before?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. What about before 2021, have you ever
- 21 been retained in your personal capacity to
- 22 provide expert services?
- 23 A. In a legal matter?
- 24 Q. Yes.

- 1 A. No.
- 2 MR. ASHRAWI: Take a quick break?
- 3 MR. INGRAM: Sure.
- 4 (Recess taken.)
- 5 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 6 Q. Mr. Sudy, I want to just kind of walk
- 7 through your report which we marked as
- 8 Exhibit 140 starting with the scope and
- 9 methodology. I see listed in the very first
- 10 paragraph that you reviewed the proposed mixed
- 11 use development by Lifestyle Communities in
- 12 light of applicable zoning standards,
- 13 Worthington's strategetic and comprehensive plan
- 14 for the subject property, and the city's
- 15 consideration of the development. My first
- 16 question is when you say zoning standards, what
- 17 are you referring to specifically?
- 18 A. I'm referring to the zoning code
- 19 sections that I believed were relevant to this
- 20 case.
- Q. I assume you don't have those section
- 22 numbers memorized off the top of your head?
- 23 A. I do not.
- Q. Would it be safe to assume that those

- 1 zoning code sections related to the property's
- 2 zoning district and the permitted uses
- 3 thereunder?
- 4 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 5 A. It related to the current property
- 6 zoning and the proposed property zoning.
- 7 -=0=-
- 8 (Deposition Exhibit 141 marked.)
- 9 -=0=-
- 10 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 11 Q. Before we go too much farther, I'm going
- 12 to hand you what we marked as Exhibit 141.
- 13 Mr. Sudy, I'll represent to you that Exhibit 141
- 14 includes a staff memorandum prepared for a
- 15 council meeting for December 13th, and includes
- 16 the Lifestyle Communities' proposal and rezoning
- 17 application, but if you could please take your
- 18 time, review this document. My question's going
- 19 to be is this the proposal that you reviewed in
- 20 preparation for your expert report?
- 21 MR. INGRAM: Counsel, for purposes of
- 22 the record Exhibit 141 is page 21 of 201 through
- 23 151 of 201. Is that correct?
- MR. ASHRAWI: That's correct.

- 1 MR. INGRAM: Take your time to review
- 2 that, Mr. Sudy.
- MR. ASHRAWI: For the record, the 201 is
- 4 the entire agenda packet for that council
- 5 meeting. This is the portion of it related to
- 6 this matter.
- 7 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 8 Q. Is that one highlighted?
- 9 A. Yes, it is highlighted. It appears to
- 10 be the same report that I reviewed.
- 11 Q. Do you mind if we trade? I think that's
- 12 my version, although there's nothing written on
- 13 there. But just in case I wrote anything bad
- 14 about Chris I'll just trade you. I apologize
- 15 for making us take more time, but -- I'll
- 16 represent to you they're the same document, but
- 17 please double check me.
- 18 A. Appears to be the same.
- 19 Q. And is this the proposal obviously
- 20 behind the staff memorandum that you reviewed
- 21 for your expert report?
- 22 A. Yes, this appears to be it.
- Q. In the last sentence of the first
- 24 paragraph under scope and methodology you

- 1 indicate that you were asked to review relevant
- 2 materials. Other than the materials listed on
- 3 that same page, did you review anything else?
- 4 A. Included in the materials from the
- 5 website was also the video, if that isn't
- 6 specifically noted here, for the ARB/planning
- 7 commission meeting. I don't recall any other
- 8 things that I reviewed.
- 9 Q. You also indicate that you conducted
- 10 relevant research. What research did you
- 11 conduct?
- 12 A. I went to the site to look at the site,
- and I considered the review of the documents as
- 14 well as the review of the zoning code to be
- 15 research as well.
- 16 Q. You didn't do any outside research
- 17 outside of these documents or visiting the site?
- 18 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 19 A. Could you clarify?
- Q. Sure. Did you speak with anyone about
- 21 this assignment or your work? Did you do any
- 22 outside planning research or was it all related
- 23 to your review of the materials and the site
- 24 visit?

- 1 MR. INGRAM: Same objection.
- 2 A. The context of this development is
- 3 similar to the context of projects that we do
- 4 for growing suburbs throughout the region. So I
- 5 could say that there's sort of a body of
- 6 research that I've accomplished that this fits
- 7 into the context of.
- 8 Q. Outside of that, though, there wasn't
- 9 anything else specific that you meant by
- 10 conducting relevant research?
- 11 A. Yes, that is accurate.
- 12 Q. And when you say you performed the
- 13 necessary investigation analysis on the subject
- 14 matter, is that also related specifically to the
- 15 materials and the site visit and your working
- 16 knowledge?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. When you went to the site, what were you
- 19 looking for?
- 20 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- A. Could you be more specific?
- Q. Sure. What's the point of the site
- 23 visit?
- A. The point of a site visit is to

- 1 understand that what you are looking at in two
- 2 dimensions is -- how what you're looking at in
- 3 two dimensions is applicable to the
- 4 three-dimensional world to see if there are any
- 5 distinguishing site characteristics that
- 6 wouldn't be evident from a plan to sort of field
- 7 verify the context of the photos and the overall
- 8 site plan within the real world situation that
- 9 you're investigating.
- 10 -=0=-
- 11 (Deposition Exhibit 142 marked.)
- -=0=-
- 13 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 14 Q. I'm going to hand you what we'll mark
- 15 now as --
- 16 MR. INGRAM: 142.
- 17 O. -- Exhibit 142.
- 18 MR. ASHRAWI: This is another large
- 19 document, Chris, I only have two of.
- Q. Mr. Sudy, I'll represent to you that
- 21 this is the City of Worthington 2005
- 22 comprehensive plan, but please take a look at it
- 23 and let me know if this is the same 2005
- 24 comprehensive plan that you reviewed as part of

- 1 your work on this report?
- 2 MR. INGRAM: I'm sorry, Yaz, I don't
- 3 have a copy. Does this have the 2014 update?
- 4 MR. ASHRAWI: No, this is just the 2005
- 5 plan.
- 6 A. It appears to be.
- 7 Q. You participated in this plan for the
- 8 city?
- 9 A. I did.
- 10 Q. In what capacity?
- 11 A. I was a staff planner for the plan and
- 12 contributed some of the writing and editing in
- 13 the plan process.
- 14 Q. And your work on this comprehensive plan
- 15 would have been in your capacity when you were
- 16 with MSI which then was MKSK?
- 17 A. Correct. I may have done this map, too.
- 18 I used to know how to do maps. I don't know how
- 19 to do them very well anymore. Software's passed
- 20 me by.
- 21 O. Ditto.
- 22 Do you recall if you did any particular
- 23 work or analysis that went into this
- comprehensive plan other than the map and the

- 1 writing?
- 2 A. Could you be more specific with regard
- 3 to the writing?
- 4 Q. Sure. I see a list of consultant team
- 5 members from MSI on page iii. It lists, among
- 6 other people, Keith Myers, Chris Hermann, Jason
- 7 Sudy, and then Kathryn Meyer, and Aron Frazier.
- 8 What was your specific role, and if you recall,
- 9 what were the roles of the other members of the
- 10 consulting team?
- 11 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form. Vague.
- 12 You can answer to the extent you can.
- 13 A. Keith Myers was a founding principal and
- 14 co-owner of the firm. He was the M of MSI and
- as such would oversee the planning department in
- 16 general. I don't recall his specific role on
- 17 this, but I would hypothesize it was at more of
- 18 a distance or at a higher level, a little bit
- 19 removed.
- 20 Chris and I used to share a lot of the
- 21 same responsibilities at MSI, and I ran a number
- 22 of planning projects and had different planning
- 23 clients, and he would run different planning
- 24 clients, and we would often contribute to each

- 1 other's projects.
- Seeing Aron Frazier on this means I did
- 3 not do this map, because we already hired
- 4 somebody who was better at doing maps than I
- 5 was, and he would have done the mapping GIS
- 6 analysis and probably just general plan
- 7 assistance.
- 8 Kathryn was more of a junior planner who
- 9 would have helped run the public process,
- 10 assemble the document and all those types of
- 11 things.
- 12 My recollection of this as best as I can
- 13 recall is that I contributed primarily to
- 14 writing the land use sections, and I also recall
- 15 that there was a robust discussion at that time
- 16 about the challenge of Worthington with regard
- 17 to declining school enrollment, and there was
- 18 quite a bit of -- sort of a general discussion
- in central Ohio at that point based on the way
- 20 school funding took place and some strategies
- 21 that different communities were going through in
- order to facilitate the best outcomes for them.
- 23 That's to the best of my knowledge what I worked
- on on this plan admitting that it was some time

- 1 ago.
- Q. Do you recall not in your review but in
- 3 your original work on this plan the discussion
- 4 on the subject property?
- 5 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 6 A. I recall the discussions on the focus
- 7 areas that were identified overall equally.
- 8 Q. Why did you review this 2005
- 9 comprehensive plan in preparation for the
- 10 report?
- 11 A. Whenever I'm working in any city
- 12 regardless of the capacity, I think it's very
- important to understand the progression of any
- 14 adopted planning materials that are in place.
- 15 It is my understanding that the 2014 update
- 16 really was meant to keep the bulk of this
- 17 document intact and supplement that.
- 18 So in my opinion, it's relevant in the
- 19 fact that it does convey at least some sense of
- 20 what the community is still thinking, albeit a
- 21 document that was originally created in 2005,
- 22 and that's why I reviewed it in order to
- 23 understand the larger context of the site.
- Q. If you turn to page 40, I think this is

- 1 a discussion on, in part, the UMCH home site.
- 2 In the second paragraph right there in the
- 3 middle it talks about the Methodist children's
- 4 home continues to care for troubled youth, but
- 5 has rezoned portions of its High Street frontage
- 6 for commercial. Both uses are appreciated. Do
- 7 you see where I'm reading?
- 8 A. I do.
- 9 Q. It talks about that any change of the
- 10 land use of this site should be carefully
- 11 reviewed by the city. Do you recall back in
- 12 2005 the discussion or any discussion about the
- 13 future plans for that site specifically?
- 14 A. Not that there were specific plans. We
- 15 discussed that it was one of the key potential
- 16 redevelopment sites in the city and as such
- 17 should be identified in that way.
- 18 Q. And it's probably one of few remaining
- 19 parcels -- large parcels to be developed in the
- 20 city of Worthington. Would you agree?
- 21 A. I would agree.
- Q. Would you agree from a planning
- 23 perspective for that reason among others it's
- 24 important to carefully review anything that goes

- 1 on there?
- 2 A. I would.
- 3 Q. Do you know how long that site has been
- 4 zoned under its current zoning?
- 5 A. I do not.
- 6 Q. Since at least 2005. Is that right?
- 7 A. I don't know if that's true. It may or
- 8 may not be true.
- 9 Q. Did you speak with anyone from the City
- 10 of Worthington for purposes of preparing your
- 11 report?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Do you know the city planner at the City
- 14 of Worthington?
- 15 A. You're referring to Lee Brown?
- 16 Q. Yes.
- 17 A. Yes, I do.
- 19 professional capacity before?
- 20 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 21 A. Could you clarify in a professional
- 22 capacity?
- Q. Sure. Has the City of Worthington or
- 24 Lee Brown specifically ever retained your

- 1 services or your company's services to do
- 2 planning work?
- 3 A. He has never retained my services, and I
- 4 do think we have as a company worked -- OHM has
- 5 worked in Worthington, though I am unclear
- 6 whether -- what those projects have been, and
- 7 when the time frame was, and whether I was at
- 8 the firm at that time, and if Lee Brown was
- 9 there at the time. I'm very unclear on whether
- 10 we --
- 11 Q. That's mostly what I didn't know. I
- 12 don't know when Lee was there so I guess another
- 13 question is have you ever worked with Lee Brown
- 14 on a planning project outside of the city of
- 15 Worthington that you recall?
- 16 A. On a professional planning project?
- 17 Q. Correct.
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Have you ever worked with Lee Brown on a
- 20 personal planning project outside the city of
- 21 Worthington?
- 22 A. Yes, in a student body project. We were
- 23 in school at the same time.
- Q. Okay. Was that at Case Western or was

- 1 that at Ohio State?
- 2 A. Ohio State.
- 3 Q. And you said you worked on a project
- 4 with Lee Brown at that time?
- 5 A. Probably. We were in a lot of studios
- 6 so I would imagine we were part of it. I
- 7 couldn't recall what any of those projects might
- 8 have been.
- 9 Q. Working with municipal governments, do
- 10 you know how municipal governments make most of
- 11 their money?
- MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 13 A. I have a general sense in the state of
- 14 Ohio.
- 15 Q. It's through income taxes. Is that
- 16 accurate?
- 17 MR. INGRAM: Same objection.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. In the 2005 comprehensive plan, I
- 20 believe on page 76, there's a discussion that
- 21 large redevelopment sites, including this one,
- 22 it would be in the best interest of the city to
- 23 have strong income-producing commercial uses.
- 24 Do you see that?

- 1 MR. INGRAM: Hang on, Counsel. If you
- 2 can give the witness time to turn to and read
- 3 the page.
- 4 Q. Sure. Take your time.
- 5 A. I do see it, yes.
- 6 Q. Would you agree with that statement that
- 7 the subject property or any infill property
- 8 should focus on income-producing commercial uses
- 9 for the benefit of the city?
- 10 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form. This
- 11 exceeds the scope of this witness's assigned
- 12 tasks in this case.
- 13 A. I'd say not specifically the way it's
- 14 written.
- 15 Q. Do you see on that same page that it
- 16 indicates predominance of residential
- 17 development on this site is not advisable or in
- 18 the city's best interest?
- 19 A. I do.
- Q. Do you recall at the time why that was
- 21 not in the best interest of the city?
- 22 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 23 You can answer if you can.
- A. Yeah, I don't recall.

- 1 Q. I'm going to hand you now what has
- 2 previously been marked as Exhibit 1. I'll
- 3 represent to you, Mr. Sudy, that Exhibit 1 is
- 4 the 2014 comprehensive plan update for the UMCH
- 5 focus area, but if you could page through that
- 6 exhibit and confirm whether you've seen this
- 7 document before and whether this is what you
- 8 reviewed as part of your report.
- 9 A. I can confirm that I have seen it
- 10 before, that to my knowledge this is the update
- 11 from 2014, and I did use it as source material
- 12 as reviewed for my report.
- Q. What was the -- what's the purpose of
- 14 this document from your professional
- 15 perspective?
- 16 A. In my perspective this is one of the
- 17 most powerful tools that we have as urban
- 18 planners, and as public planners, and as site
- 19 planners, and this is the idea of a focus area
- 20 plan.
- 21 And as I outlined in my staff -- or in
- 22 my report there are some overlapping terms in
- 23 public planning which would probably be well
- 24 served to define more completely at some point.

- 1 It's a different story in that comprehensive
- 2 plans unfortunately named comprehensive plans
- 3 due to the fact that that is often assumed to be
- 4 comprehensive of everything, and certainly they
- 5 are not, and every community picks and chooses
- 6 which things they want to focus on most
- 7 completely.
- 8 This is a tool, the focus area plan, and
- 9 is a tool used in almost every comprehensive
- 10 plan I've been a part of and most of them that
- 11 I've reviewed with the idea that a comprehensive
- 12 plan isn't truly comprehensive. It can't look
- in great detail of every single portion of the
- 14 city. That would be burdensome on the cost of
- 15 the plan, it would be burdensome on those
- 16 reviewing the plan, it would be burdensome in
- 17 that it's very difficult to anticipate all the
- 18 foreseeable market conditions and changes and
- 19 things that would take place.
- 20 So what happens is a focus area plan is
- 21 done, and typically throughout the comprehensive
- 22 plan process there is a robust public engagement
- 23 and discussion in order to determine where those
- 24 focus areas should most likely be. And that

- 1 often takes place through listening to community
- 2 leaders to staff members to elected officials,
- 3 to public planning -- to members of the public,
- 4 and reviewing previous planning documents, and
- 5 sometimes looking at market evaluations, traffic
- 6 studies, any of those types of things.
- 7 So the determination of these focus
- 8 areas took place in the 2005 plan, and this was
- 9 identified as a primary site for the reasons
- 10 that you've previously mentioned. Based on some
- 11 changes that took place, in particular the fact
- 12 that the children's home was no longer in
- 13 operation, the city apparently -- and again, I
- 14 don't -- can't describe their exact motivations.
- 15 My professional planning experience would be
- 16 when there's a major change in use or a
- 17 significant change of some sort at a site that's
- 18 been identified as a major focus area that's
- 19 typically the impetus for a city to think about
- 20 revising that focus area.
- In the case of Worthington I think this
- is even more powerful, because they chose to
- look only at this one focus area. It wasn't a
- 24 situation where they redid their whole

- 1 comprehensive plan, nor did they look at all of
- 2 their previous focus areas, nor did they
- 3 identify new focus areas.
- 4 They clearly identified some sort of
- 5 potential and likely shift in this area based on
- 6 changing conditions, and as such, did this plan.
- 7 They hired the firm that I had worked
- 8 for several -- many years before -- or several
- 9 years before, at that point known as MKSK, in
- 10 order to go through what I would consider a
- 11 robust public process. I was not part of that
- 12 process. I reviewed the list of meetings that
- 13 they undertook in order to accomplish this, and
- 14 I think from a professional planning practice
- 15 standpoint in my personal experience that was
- 16 what would be considered a robust process for a
- 17 site of this size and amendment of this size.
- And as we can see, while I think it has
- 19 a whole lot of information in here it really,
- 20 you know, in sum total ranges from page 89 to
- 21 99. So we're talking about, I guess, 11 pages
- 22 of new material that are generated out of a
- 23 really extensive year-long process. And not
- 24 that there's a direct correlation between the

- 1 amount of time and the number of pages, but I
- 2 think there certainly is an indicator that there
- 3 was a huge amount of interest and community
- 4 input put into generating a very targeted
- 5 outcome for this plan.
- 6 So in using this plan at this -- in my
- 7 opinion is the most significant element to guide
- 8 the future development of this site, and I would
- 9 use this as a staff planner as basically my
- 10 bible to guide this development due to the fact
- 11 that it went through a robust public process and
- 12 it was adopted by the elected officials of the
- 13 city, which would mean to me that this is the
- 14 most accurate portrayal of the community's
- 15 wishes for how this could proceed as a
- 16 development site. So that is why I really
- focused on this as a key element in the overall
- 18 review process for understanding the site.
- 19 Q. Thank you for that. Let me see if I can
- 20 remember all my questions.
- 21 A. Sure.
- Q. You would agree that MKSK is a reputable
- 23 and well respected planning company?
- 24 A. I would.

- 1 Q. You would agree that this document,
- 2 what's been previously marked as Exhibit 1, the
- 3 2014 focus area update, didn't change the zoning
- 4 for the subject property, right?
- 5 A. It did not.
- 6 Q. You would agree that it provided future
- 7 land use recommendations, correct?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. You would also agree that it provided
- 10 guidance as to a range of desired land uses and
- 11 developments?
- 12 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 13 A. I would say it provided guidance toward
- 14 a relatively narrow range in some of the
- 15 subareas and then a somewhat larger range in
- 16 some of the subareas.
- 17 Q. It didn't prescribe any particular
- 18 development in here, did it?
- 19 A. It did not.
- Q. On page -- what's labeled as page 90,
- 21 which is the second page of the exhibit, the
- 22 area, the subject property, the current zoning
- 23 for that subject property is included both in
- 24 text and an image. Do you see that?

- 1 A. The zoning for the property, yes, I see
- 2 that.
- 3 Q. So a large majority of the property is
- 4 zoned S1 special?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And that was also the zoning of the
- 7 property back in 2005. Do you recall that?
- 8 A. I do not recall that.
- 9 Q. This document didn't change the
- 10 permitted uses on this subject property, right?
- 11 A. Could you clarify?
- 12 Q. Sure. You would agree with me that the
- 13 zoning code, and the zoning districts, and the
- 14 permitted uses thereunder is what prescribes
- 15 what can or cannot be developed on the piece of
- 16 property, right?
- 17 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for legal
- 18 conclusion.
- 19 A. I mean, a zoning code functions as the
- 20 legal right to develop on a property. I can say
- 21 that.
- Q. So my question is with this document did
- 23 those legal rights change as to this property?
- MR. INGRAM: Same objection.

- 1 A. To my knowledge, no.
- Q. On page 91, which is the third page of
- 3 the exhibit, the first paragraph on the left
- 4 column, the last sentence talks about the
- 5 importance of the potential site to the
- 6 community and an expectation for public/private
- 7 partnership to play a role in the planning and
- 8 redevelopment of the site. Do you see that?
- 9 A. I do see it.
- 10 Q. Do you know what type of public/private
- 11 partnership was contemplated or is being
- 12 contemplated for this site?
- 13 A. For this particular site, I do not know.
- 14 Q. Would you agree that public input among
- 15 other -- among input from other stakeholders is
- 16 critical in planning?
- 17 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form. Calls
- 18 for speculation.
- 19 A. You have to be more specific for me.
- Q. Sure. In your work as the City of
- 21 Bexley planner, does the city consider the
- 22 opinions or considerations that the public
- 23 brings with respect to various planning
- 24 projects?

- 1 MR. INGRAM: Same objection and
- 2 incomplete hypothetical.
- 3 A. It's difficult to answer that. I mean,
- 4 generally it depends. Depends on the --
- 5 depends. That's all I can say.
- 6 Q. What does it depend on?
- 7 A. Depends on at what point different
- 8 elements of concern are raised, and how they're
- 9 raised, and the process by which they're raised.
- 10 Q. Are all your professional opinions about
- 11 this site and this project under your scope
- 12 contained in your report?
- 13 A. Could you rephrase?
- Q. Sure. You provide your professional
- 15 opinions in the report, correct?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Do you have any opinions, professional
- 18 expert opinions, about the scope of work you
- 19 were tasked to do that you have not included in
- 20 your report?
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Is it your opinion that the LC proposal,
- 23 which we've marked as Exhibit 141 for your
- 24 reference, meets the guidance that was provided

- 1 in the 2014 comprehensive plan update?
- 2 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form. A staff
- 3 memorandum is different than Lifestyle's
- 4 proposal, Counsel.
- 5 A. Could you explain like your -- this is
- 6 the --
- 7 Q. Sure. I'm referring specifically to
- 8 Lifestyle's proposal, and my question is, is it
- 9 your opinion that the proposal that you reviewed
- 10 met the guidance provided in the 2014 comp plan
- 11 focus area?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. The density in the proposal -- total
- density of the proposal was 15.95 dwelling units
- 15 per acre. Is that right?
- 16 A. I'll need to refer to...
- 17 Q. Turn to page 28 for reference.
- 18 A. That is how the staff calculated it.
- 19 Yes, that is accurate.
- Q. You would agree that that density of
- 21 dwelling units per acre is greater than the
- 22 guidance provided in the 2014 strategetic plan,
- 23 right?
- 24 A. No.

- 1 O. What is the guidance in the 2014
- 2 strategetic plan?
- 3 A. The guidance is per subarea, and this
- 4 plan is very specific about the way that that
- 5 issue is handled. So this breaks out four
- 6 subareas into -- or out of the overall whole
- 7 site, one of which we can set aside from a
- 8 density perspective as the Tucker Creek Preserve
- 9 as that is intended to be preserved for a
- 10 natural feature reserve and has been submitted
- 11 for that in the Lifestyle plan.
- 12 So there are two other areas that have
- 13 specific recommendations as far as the number of
- 14 units. I'm going to flip into this in my report
- 15 so I can give you the accurate numbers. So in
- 16 the Worthington Estates Edge the plan says that
- 17 calls for single-family residential development
- 18 on lots between a third and a fifth of an acre.
- 19 This equates to a residential density similar to
- 20 Worthington Estates three dwelling units per
- 21 acre and Old Worthington four to five dwelling
- 22 units per acre.
- MR. INGRAM: Slow down.
- A. Sorry. That is from the 2014 update on

- 1 page 92 to 93.
- 2 The Lifestyle plan includes
- 3 single-family lots at 3.72 units per acre. So
- 4 that is, in fact, within the range that they
- 5 have prescribed.
- Then moving to the Neighborhood Core,
- 7 the Neighborhood Core on page 93 says it calls
- 8 for development density between 6 and 14
- 9 dwelling units per acre, gross density, with
- 10 height limit of three stories. And they
- 11 specifically mention there that they want -- the
- 12 plan anticipates that the Neighborhood Core will
- 13 be developed with more than one housing type and
- 14 more than one density level.
- 15 What this plan does is it offers two
- 16 different housing types in conformance with that
- 17 plan recommendation at two different density
- 18 levels in conformance with the plan
- 19 recommendation. One of those densities at 9.55
- 20 and the other at 14.5. I have not calculated
- 21 that specific average here. Yet, I can attest
- 22 that when you average those acreages together
- 23 with the number of units it does come into the
- 24 range which is 6 to 14 in the Neighborhood Core,

- 1 which is exactly in keeping, and how I would
- 2 interpret that in any review that I was doing in
- 3 a professional staff capacity.
- 4 In the High Street mixed use area it's
- 5 very notable that there is not a density range,
- 6 and this is very typical in the way that these
- 7 plans are done in mixed use corridors. I have
- 8 done plans like this. I have implemented plans
- 9 like this. I've read plans like this. I've
- 10 worked in numerous communities that had similar
- 11 type of approaches where instead of a delineated
- 12 range of densities instead there is a general
- 13 form that is prescribed.
- 14 And in this case this form has to be a
- 15 minimum of two stories, and it could be up to
- 16 five stories, and that form is what dictates how
- 17 many units. It could be -- you could have
- 18 extraordinarily few units or you could have very
- 19 many.
- There's a particular project on Main
- 21 Street in the city of Bexley that is tens of
- 22 thousands of square feet and has four units in
- 23 it, because the people who built it decided they
- 24 wanted to have very large units. There are

- 1 many, many more examples of buildings that are
- 2 this size that have a more typical unit count,
- 3 which is dictated by the natural constraints of
- 4 the site and the economics of the site in order
- 5 to facilitate a certain size of surface parking
- 6 and/or parking garage, and that's baked into the
- 7 essence. And what this is suggesting is that
- 8 that is completely appropriate as far as a
- 9 strategetic analysis goes in this plan.
- 10 Q. Is it your position that -- let's set
- 11 the mixed use subarea aside. Is it your
- 12 position that if the subareas have a density
- 13 between 9 and 14 dwelling units per acre that
- 14 the city must approve the planned unit
- 15 development rezoning?
- MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 17 Incomplete hypothetical.
- 18 A. Could you make that more specific?
- 19 Q. Sure. You just got done telling me why
- 20 the density of the three subareas meet the
- 21 guidelines in the 2014 strategetic analysis and
- 22 home focus area, right?
- A. (Nods head).
- Q. Is it your position that by meeting the

- 1 guidance in this 2014 focus area document the
- 2 City of Worthington must approve the planned
- 3 unit development?
- 4 A. The City of Worthington must, in my
- 5 opinion, use this document as the primary
- 6 guiding source of evaluation, and as many cities
- 7 they have a board that also considers
- 8 aesthetics, and that is a valid review tool that
- 9 can be used. Unfortunately in this case, it
- 10 never progressed to the aesthetic review based
- 11 on the fact that it was cut short before the
- 12 architectural review board was able to
- 13 participate in that.
- 14 Q. So back to my question. In your
- 15 opinion, is the city required to approve the
- 16 planned unit development if it contains a
- density for the Neighborhood Core between the 6
- 18 and 14 dwelling units per acre that's outlined
- in the 2014 focus area document?
- 20 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Same objections
- 21 as before. Incomplete hypothetical and asked
- 22 and answered this time.
- Q. You can answer my question.
- 24 A. No.

- 1 Q. No, they're not required?
- 2 A. They're not required.
- 3 Q. Turning our attention to the
- 4 multi-family -- excuse me, mixed use area. If
- 5 I'm understanding your testimony from earlier,
- 6 and please correct me if I'm wrong, you
- 7 testified that the 2014 focus area document
- 8 we've identified as Exhibit 1 doesn't provide a
- 9 specific density by way of dwelling unit per
- 10 acre number for that area. Is that accurate?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. So from your perspective does that mean
- 13 that a developer is permitted to provide
- 14 whatever density that developer wants?
- 15 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 16 A. Within the context of the overall
- 17 guidelines for that area.
- 18 Q. And it's the city's prerogative to
- 19 accept or reject what that developer proposes in
- 20 that context. Is that correct?
- 21 MR. INGRAM: Objection.
- 22 Mischaracterizes this witness's prior testimony.
- 23 A. It's the prerogative of the city to
- 24 evaluate whatever is proposed against this in

- 1 order to determine if it meets the standards
- 2 here.
- 3 MR. INGRAM: For purposes of the record,
- 4 the witness was just pointing to Exhibit 1.
- 5 MR. ASHRAWI: Thank you, Chris.
- 6 Can you read that answer back? I'm
- 7 sorry I lost track.
- 8 (Record read as requested.)
- 9 Q. So if a city has determined that, for
- 10 example in this case, the proposal's too dense,
- 11 you would agree that the city has the right to
- 12 request a lower density development in that
- 13 mixed use area. Is that right?
- MR. INGRAM: Objection. Assumes facts
- 15 not in evidence. Incomplete hypothetical.
- 16 Calls for speculation.
- 17 You may answer if you can.
- 18 A. I don't think that they have shown that.
- 19 Q. Say that one more time.
- 20 A. I don't think they have shown it's too
- 21 high of density.
- Q. Who's they in that statement?
- 23 A. The staff and the planning commission.
- Q. How would you show that something is too

- 1 high -- too highly defense?
- 2 A. In the case of this strategetic plan
- 3 since there is no set density range it would
- 4 have to exceed the building form, and that is
- 5 the only way that you could -- in my opinion, my
- 6 expert opinion in the hundreds of cases like
- 7 this that I've been involved in, that's the only
- 8 way that you can apply the standards in this
- 9 plan in order to determine what you would think
- 10 as a city or staff is an inappropriate density.
- 11 You have created a public document over a robust
- 12 public process that outlines the form of the
- 13 building. It does not outline the density so
- there is no maximum density in this plan.
- 15 Q. So a developer can -- is entitled to
- 16 whatever density it wants, then?
- 17 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form. Asked
- 18 and answered and mischaracterizes this witness's
- 19 prior testimony.
- 20 A. That -- a developer has to conform to
- 21 the -- doesn't have to. A developer who does
- 22 conform to this plan would have a natural limit
- 23 on the density that they could create.
- Q. Are you aware that Lifestyle previously

- 1 proposed -- made a proposal with over 700 units
- 2 for the subject property?
- 3 A. I am aware of the staff review that
- 4 states that.
- 5 Q. Are you aware of Lifestyle Communities
- 6 presenting a plan to the city that included over
- 7 700 units?
- 8 A. It is my understanding that happened.
- 9 Q. Have you seen that proposal?
- 10 A. I have not.
- 11 Q. Is it your position, then, that the
- 12 700-plus unit proposal would be appropriate
- 13 under the guidelines of the 2014 focus area?
- 14 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for
- 15 speculation.
- 16 A. I haven't seen that plan so I don't know
- 17 if the form of that plan does, in fact, meet
- 18 this set of standards.
- 19 Q. You would agree that a municipal
- 20 planning department in a city and their various
- 21 boards and commissions look at other documents
- 22 and information other than just the focus area
- 23 document, right?
- 24 A. Most likely.

- 1 O. That would include the zoning code?
- 2 A. Yeah, certainly.
- 3 Q. Does the focus area document labeled as
- 4 Exhibit 1 reference multi-family or apartment
- 5 residential uses anywhere in the document for
- 6 this site?
- 7 A. I will have to read it to see.
- 8 Q. Take your time if you don't recall off
- 9 the top of your head.
- 10 A. I do not recall.
- 11 Q. If it's helpful, I can direct your
- 12 attention to page 94 where the document
- discusses introducing different housing options
- 14 and the types of housing options that could be
- 15 used on that site.
- 16 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 17 Mischaracterizes the document.
- 18 A. Could you ask me the question again?
- 19 Q. Sure. Let's just focus on page 94 for
- 20 now. You would agree that the document
- 21 indicates that this site creates an opportunity
- 22 to introduce different housing options, right?
- 23 A. It does.
- Q. And then the document, again what we've

- 1 marked as Exhibit 1, the 2014 focus area,
- 2 includes examples of the different types of
- 3 housing options that would be desirable on this
- 4 site, does it not?
- 5 A. It includes examples of some types of
- 6 housing types, yes, that would be desirable.
- 7 Q. So let me -- so the examples include
- 8 single-family detached homes on small lots with
- 9 rear alley garages, right?
- 10 MR. INGRAM: Objection.
- 11 Mischaracterizes this witness's prior testimony.
- 12 A. Could you clarify what you're asking?
- 13 Q. Sure. I'm just reading from the
- 14 document and what is included as examples of a
- 15 mix of housing types.
- 16 A. Yes, that is included in their list --
- 17 in the list.
- Q. As are homes with great front porches
- 19 for outdoor gathering, right?
- 20 A. It is included.
- Q. Custom homes designed for first-floor
- 22 living, right?
- 23 A. It is included.
- Q. Luxury residences with integrated front

- 1 auto courts, right?
- 2 A. Yep.
- 3 Q. Well-appointed walk-up townhomes?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And a limited number of high-end flats?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Which of these examples that are set out
- 8 in this 2014 focus area did LC include in their
- 9 proposal?
- 10 A. They have flats and I believe some
- 11 townhomes, but I can't be certain of that in
- 12 this subarea.
- 13 Q. In the Neighborhood Core subarea?
- 14 A. In the Neighborhood Core subarea, yes.
- 15 Single-family homes are part of the Worthington
- 16 Estates Edge subarea.
- 17 Q. I'm going to hand you what we previously
- 18 marked as Exhibit 7. Do you know what this
- 19 document is?
- 20 A. I believe I do.
- Q. What is it?
- 22 A. This is the update to this portion of
- 23 the strategetic plan that was most recently
- 24 passed through council.

- 1 O. And you reviewed this document in
- 2 preparation for your report, right?
- 3 A. I did.
- 4 Q. This resolution 04-2022, which we marked
- 5 as Exhibit 7, this was adopted after the city
- 6 had already rejected the Lifestyle proposal for
- 7 redevelopment, planned unit development, right?
- 8 A. That is my understanding.
- 9 Q. Did this 2022 update change any of the
- 10 permitted uses permitted by zoning code on the
- 11 property?
- 12 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for legal
- 13 conclusions.
- 14 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 15 Q. Did it rezone the property?
- 16 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 17 MR. INGRAM: Same objection.
- 18 Q. Is there any part of this document that
- is inconsistent with the 2014 focus area plan?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Can you walk me through those
- 22 inconsistencies?
- 23 A. Yes. The biggest inconsistency is
- 24 compatible with current S1 zoning. That is not

- 1 what is outlined in the strategic analysis for
- 2 2014.
- 3 Q. Can you identify where you're reading
- 4 and can you read the --
- 5 A. On page 2 of 2 of the document you just
- 6 handed me under general components: Compatible
- 7 with current S1 zoning, a large contiguous
- 8 greenspace, central to the property and
- 9 inclusive...
- 10 Q. Was there a greenspace component to the
- 11 guidelines in the 2014 document?
- 12 A. There were references, yes.
- 13 O. So how is the reference to this
- 14 greenspace different?
- 15 A. Compatible -- it says seek an outcome on
- 16 this land. Doesn't say seek an outcome of
- 17 greenspace. It says seek an outcome on this
- 18 land that is compatible with current S1 zoning
- 19 if I'm understanding the way this is formatted.
- 20 Either way, compatible with current S1 zoning is
- 21 distinctly identified in the strategetic
- 22 analysis as not the highest and best use of that
- 23 property.
- Q. Anything else that's inconsistent with

- 1 the 2014 plan?
- 2 A. It's extraordinarily vague and only
- 3 delineates -- it uses a lot of language that is
- 4 very unhelpful in the planning profession.
- 5 Words like harmonious. Those are, as a
- 6 practicing professional for 25 years, the type
- 7 of words that we find to be of little use in our
- 8 staff efforts to try to review a site plan for
- 9 compatibility. The vagueness of this speaks
- 10 to -- it's just -- it doesn't give any guidance
- 11 toward what the outcome should be as was
- 12 accomplished in this robust public process for
- 13 the strategetic analysis of 2014.
- Q. I think you used the term harmonious,
- 15 you said was kind of a vague term?
- 16 A. Uh-huh.
- 17 Q. Is that a yes?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Are there any other vague terms that are
- 20 used in this 2022 update?
- 21 A. Exceptional, expressive, desirable,
- 22 harmonious again, respectful. Those are very
- 23 difficult for a planner to use as a basis for
- 24 successful evaluation of a project.

- 1 Q. Is it your position that the 2022
- 2 amendments replaced the 2014 focus area or
- 3 supplemented it?
- 4 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for legal
- 5 conclusion. Exceeds the scope of this witness's
- 6 tasks in this case.
- 7 A. I'm not clear on the exact legal
- 8 ramifications of this. I can't speak to their
- 9 intention. I can say that it is certainly much
- 10 more vague and less satisfactory from a planning
- 11 standpoint than the 2014 robustly -- you know,
- 12 the results of a robust public process that was
- 13 accomplished.
- Q. You note on -- in your report that you
- 15 reviewed the 2014 presentation by MKSK regarding
- 16 the focus area document which we've labeled as
- 17 Exhibit 1. Is that right?
- 18 A. I reviewed the PowerPoint slides if that
- 19 is what you're referring to.
- Q. Yes. Do you have any opinion about
- 21 those PowerPoint slides that is not contained in
- 22 here?
- 23 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Vague.
- 24 A. No.

- 1 Q. I'll hand you what we previously marked
- 2 as Exhibit 5. Are you familiar with this
- 3 document?
- 4 A. I don't think I am. I don't think I am.
- 5 Q. You can set that aside, then.
- 6 A. Okay.
- 7 Q. You indicated you reviewed the complaint
- 8 that is filed in this case, right?
- 9 A. That is correct.
- 10 Q. Have you reviewed any other pleadings or
- 11 court records since then?
- 12 A. Related to this case?
- 13 Q. Yes.
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. From a planning perspective, you would
- 16 agree that city council has discretion in
- 17 approving or denying a planned unit development
- 18 rezoning, right?
- 19 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for a
- 20 legal conclusion. Exceeds the scope of this
- 21 witness's tasks.
- 22 A. They have discretion assuming they have
- 23 actually reviewed the information that would
- 24 provide them the ability to properly determine

- 1 whether or not it met the standards of the PUD.
- 2 Q. You would agree upon review of the
- 3 comprehensive plan, focus area, the updates and
- 4 upon considering those documents the city still
- 5 does not have a requirement to approve the
- 6 planned unit development. Is that right?
- 7 MR. INGRAM: Same objections.
- 8 A. The requirement, yeah, I can't speak to
- 9 that from a legal perspective.
- 10 Q. And just to clarify, I'm not asking from
- 11 a legal perspective. I'm asking from a planning
- 12 perspective.
- MR. INGRAM: Same objections.
- 14 A. It -- if all of the review process is
- 15 undertaken and the proper interaction with the
- 16 applicant and feedback is given and a
- 17 satisfactory conclusion is not eventually
- 18 reached, they would have the ability, yeah, to
- 19 turn that down.
- Q. Have you been made aware or advised that
- 21 the Court has dismissed some of Lifestyle's
- 22 legal claims against the city?
- 23 A. I cannot recall.
- Q. Are you aware or have you been made

- 1 aware that the Court determined that the city's
- 2 comprehensive plan does not limit the city's
- 3 discretion in denying the planned unit
- 4 development zoning?
- 5 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 6 A. Could you clarify that?
- 7 MR. INGRAM: Mischaracterizes the
- 8 Court's order.
- 9 -=0=-
- 10 (Deposition Exhibit 143 marked.)
- -=0=-
- 12 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 13 Q. I'm going to hand you what we'll mark as
- 14 Exhibit 143. Mr. Sudy, this is the opinion and
- 15 order from the federal court dated March 15th,
- 16 2023. My first question to you after you've
- 17 paged through that and review it is have you
- 18 seen this before?
- 19 A. I have not.
- Q. Since you have not seen it, I won't ask
- 21 you questions about it.
- 22 A. Okay.
- Q. I want to turn -- strike that.
- MR. ASHRAWI: Take a short break. We've

- 1 been going for about an hour.
- 2 MR. INGRAM: Sure.
- 3 (Recess taken.)
- 4 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 5 Q. Mr. Sudy, I'm going to refer you back to
- 6 your expert report, and I'm looking at page 3
- 7 where you begin your discussion. In the
- 8 introduction you indicate that Lifestyle had a
- 9 reasonable expectation that the subject property
- 10 would be zoned and developed in accordance with
- 11 the city's action plan for the site based on
- 12 standard accepted professional planning
- 13 practices through central Ohio region and the
- 14 State of Ohio. Do you see that?
- 15 A. I do.
- 16 Q. Did you speak at anyone at Lifestyle
- 17 regarding their expectations for the rezoning?
- 18 A. I did not.
- 19 Q. Do you know who Bo Brownlee is?
- 20 A. I don't. I mean, actually I sort of do
- 21 because I saw his name in the record, but I
- 22 don't know Bo Brownlee.
- 23 Also, I wanted to clarify. Earlier you
- 24 had asked me about the 700 density unit

- 1 development application. I have reviewed that
- 2 one. I was getting confused based on the
- 3 density numbers with a previous submittal that
- 4 they had made years ago so I just wanted to get
- 5 that in the record.
- 6 Q. Thank you for that clarification.
- 7 A. Yeah.
- 8 Q. So what is the basis, then, for your
- 9 finding that Lifestyle had a reasonable
- 10 expectation that the property would be rezoned?
- 11 A. In looking at their proposal with
- 12 comparison to the 2014 analysis, I would find
- 13 that to be highly in conformance. And it
- 14 also -- there's also a suggestion that a PUD
- 15 would be an actual good rezoning category for
- 16 them to pursue. By Lifestyle pursuing a PUD and
- in my opinion conforming very closely to what is
- 18 in the 2014 plan, it should be a situation where
- 19 there's an iterative process with staff and the
- 20 boards and commissions to clarify some of the
- 21 details in order to reach a conclusion which in
- 22 my opinion would then make it a very reasonable
- 23 expectation that if you met this and followed
- 24 the zoning recommendation, you would get a

- 1 rezoning.
- Q. Are you aware that a Lifestyle
- 3 representative previously testified that they
- 4 understood the rezoning process to not be
- 5 guaranteed in this instance?
- 6 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 7 A. I'm not aware of that.
- 8 Q. Would you agree with the state -- a
- 9 general statement that rezoning is not
- 10 guaranteed?
- MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for an
- 12 incomplete hypothetical. Calls for speculation.
- 13 A. In the world of teaching about zoning,
- 14 which I did for many years at Ohio State, an
- 15 absolute extreme version would be, yes, no
- 16 zoning is guaranteed. That being said, there's
- 17 a wide variety of expectation as to when you
- 18 would likely expect a rezoning and when you
- 19 wouldn't. And I would put this particular
- 20 application based on the materials that have
- 21 been submitted and the recommendation for a PUD
- 22 to be in the category of highly likely to expect
- 23 a rezoning.
- Q. And just to clarify, again, that's your

- 1 opinion. Nobody from Lifestyle told you
- 2 Lifestyle's expectations, right?
- 3 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Asked and
- 4 answered.
- 5 A. Correct. Yes.
- 6 Q. In the beginning of the second paragraph
- 7 you reference that -- or you state that approval
- 8 of the Lifestyle plan as submitted or with minor
- 9 modifications is a reasonable assumption. What
- 10 minor modifications did you have in mind?
- 11 A. In reading the staff report, I found
- 12 there to be very little substantive issues at
- odds with the plan to justify the recommendation
- 14 of denial. That being said, there are always
- 15 some issues, particularly in complex mixed use
- 16 projects and particularly in PUDs where there
- 17 are a lot of steps.
- 18 Of the issues that were already raised,
- 19 the particular one that I frankly agree with
- 20 from staff is Wesley Boulevard was proposed to
- 21 be a public street, and there was -- staff
- 22 raised a concern over whether that had been
- 23 built to public street standards since they
- 24 would be accepting that and then be responsible

- for the ongoing maintenance. That's absolutely
 a comment that I would have made as well if I
- 3 was reviewing this, and again, something that
- 4 would have been worked out over the process of
- 5 the PUD application with the applicant to
- 6 determine whether or not the city found that to
- 7 be an acceptable roadway or if it had to be
- 8 rebuilt, et cetera.
- 9 In addition, there are likely in any
- 10 PUD, especially a complex PUD, a number of minor
- 11 modifications that would take place once the
- 12 aesthetic elements were designed and discussed,
- and you know, vetted with the different boards,
- 14 determined to be in or not as close in
- 15 conformance with what their aesthetic standards
- 16 might be. And so not reaching that point, it's
- 17 impossible to say what those might have been.
- There also might have been some minor
- 19 tweaks in the boundaries of the different
- 20 development districts or in the specific mix of
- 21 uses or types of uses based on aesthetic
- 22 considerations that would change the building
- 23 characteristics that the ARB might request and
- 24 be agreed to by the applicant.

- 1 O. You agree with me that the staff report
- 2 indicated that the developer was advised the
- 3 development was too dense?
- 4 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 5 A. I agree that there was discussion about
- 6 the density. I can't recall whether or not the
- 7 developer was advised.
- 8 Q. You clarified earlier that you had seen
- 9 the Lifestyle proposal of the 700-plus units,
- 10 right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Do you recall that the city advised at
- 13 that time that that proposal was too dense?
- 14 MR. INGRAM: Objection.
- 15 Mischaracterizes this witness's prior statement.
- 16 A. I recall that there was a request to
- 17 have additional office space.
- 18 Q. You don't recall anything about the
- 19 residential density?
- 20 A. At that time I don't recall. That being
- 21 said, I do recall that it was stated in the
- 22 staff report.
- Q. You would agree with me that Lifestyle
- 24 has the ability to file a new rezoning

- 1 application today, right?
- 2 MR. INGRAM: Objection to the extent
- 3 you're seeking a legal conclusion from this
- 4 witness and this line of questioning exceeds
- 5 this expert's assigned tasks in this case.
- 6 A. Yeah, I mean, that's just a statement of
- 7 can anybody ever file any zoning ever in the
- 8 world. Yes, anyone can ever at any time.
- 9 Q. Including Lifestyle?
- 10 A. Including Lifestyle.
- 11 Q. Are you aware of anything preventing
- 12 Lifestyle from doing that?
- 13 A. I am not.
- 14 MR. INGRAM: Same objections.
- 15 Q. I'm turning now to the portion of your
- 16 report that's titled planning background. You
- 17 go over the various plans: the comprehensive
- 18 plan, strategic plan, focus area plan. I think
- 19 we've discussed a lot of that at a high level
- 20 already. You would agree that none of those
- 21 plans outline permitted uses on the property,
- 22 right?
- 23 MR. INGRAM: Objection.
- A. I would agree that they don't rezone the

- 1 property. They do specifically suggest quite a
- 2 few uses.
- 3 Q. Are those current uses or future uses?
- 4 A. The plans describe current uses and
- 5 outline future uses.
- 6 Q. And are those future uses permitted
- 7 under the existing zoning for the property?
- 8 A. Some of them.
- 9 Q. Which ones?
- 10 A. Some of the commercial uses are allowed
- 11 under the commercial zoning.
- 12 Q. Anything else?
- 13 A. I would imagine -- yes. The Tucker
- 14 Creek open space would be allowed under the S1.
- 15 Q. And there was a Tucker Creek open space
- 16 in the proposal that LC submitted, right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Anything else?
- 19 A. You have to -- I'm sorry, could you
- 20 clarify anything else?
- Q. Yeah. Any other future land use
- 22 recommendations that are currently permitted by
- 23 the zoning code?
- A. I would say no.

- 1 Q. In your planning experience and
- 2 background is public outreach part of the
- 3 development process?
- 4 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for legal
- 5 conclusion.
- 6 A. I would say that public -- the public
- 7 meeting process is always part of the
- 8 development review process.
- 9 Q. And the public meeting process is an
- 10 important piece of the development process?
- 11 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Form.
- 12 A. Yes, it is, and the public meeting
- 13 process is clearly defined as opposed to the
- 14 nebulous form of public outreach which can take
- 15 myriad forms. Public meeting process is a
- 16 delineated process that's very clear and central
- 17 to the review of an application.
- 18 Q. In your experience and background is it
- 19 common for local governments to ask land
- 20 developers to seek public buy-in for a
- 21 development project?
- 22 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for
- 23 speculation. Incomplete hypothetical.
- You may answer to the extent you can.

- 1 A. Sometimes.
- Q. Did you speak with anyone from the city
- 3 about the city's PUD rezoning process?
- 4 A. I did not.
- 5 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Asked and
- 6 answered.
- 7 Q. You reviewed the PUD rezoning process
- 8 outlined in the zoning code, right?
- 9 A. That is correct.
- 10 Q. And that the zoning code outlines what
- 11 must happen through that process, right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Have you ever either owned property that
- 14 was rezoned in Worthington or worked on behalf
- of a client that was rezoning property in the
- 16 city of Worthington?
- 17 A. I personally have not.
- 18 Q. Have you ever worked for the City of
- 19 Worthington on a planned unit development
- 20 rezoning project?
- 21 A. I personally have not.
- 22 Q. Have you ever personally rezoned
- 23 property anywhere in the state of Ohio?
- 24 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.

- 1 A. I personally have not.
- Q. Have you represented a private landowner
- 3 in a rezoning process in the state of Ohio?
- 4 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. When?
- 7 MR. INGRAM: Same objection.
- 8 A. I cannot recall sitting here. I would
- 9 have to go back and look at project records to
- 10 determine that.
- 11 Q. How many times would you say you've
- 12 represented a private landowner through a
- 13 rezoning process?
- 14 A. I can't recall sitting here. I'd have
- 15 to go back and look at it. Under 10.
- 16 Q. When was the last time to the best of
- 17 your recollection?
- 18 A. I can't recall sitting here. I have to
- 19 look into that. Not in the last three years,
- 20 certainly.
- Q. Would you agree that through your review
- 22 of these documents and watching the videos and
- 23 whatnot that the city and its various boards and
- 24 commissions did consider the comprehensive plan,

- 1 the 2005 strategetic updates, the UMC focus area
- 2 from 2014, the bicycle and pedestrian plan of
- 3 2019, and the park master plan of 2017?
- 4 MR. INGRAM: Objection to form.
- 5 A. I would say that the planning commission
- 6 highly disregarded most of those plans.
- 7 Q. So your position is they did not
- 8 consider those plans?
- 9 A. They considered -- if they considered
- 10 them, which they did not seem to, they
- 11 considered them very erroneously and gave a
- 12 credibly flimsy and nonsubstantial reasoning for
- 13 a lot of the input at the hearing that I
- 14 watched. There was some specific input, and
- 15 there was a lot of input that was, generally I
- 16 would characterize it as, I just don't like it.
- 17 Q. What specific input do you recall?
- 18 A. I just don't think this is right for
- 19 this site. I just don't like how it -- I don't
- 20 like where the buildings are. I don't like the
- 21 height. I don't like -- they just said they
- 22 didn't like it, which is insubstantial for a
- 23 planning review in my opinion.
- Q. Thank you. We'll come back to that in a

- 1 second.
- I think you testified, and correct me if
- 3 I'm wrong, there was some specific input that
- 4 was provided?
- 5 A. There was.
- 6 Q. What was that specific input?
- 7 A. There was concern over linking roads to
- 8 the existing streets, which I might point out is
- 9 directly opposite of what was recommended in the
- 10 2014 update. There was concern about the
- 11 overall number of unit count. And there was
- 12 concern about open space, the desire for more
- 13 open space.
- 14 Q. Do any of the -- well, strike that.
- Does the 2014 focus area plan set forth
- 16 a specific objective open space number?
- 17 A. It sets forth a specific objective to
- 18 protect the Tucker Creek and then to integrate
- 19 overall open space within the development
- 20 without a specific target number.
- Q. You begin discussing some of what you
- 22 heard from the planning and zoning commission,
- 23 and you categorized it as I just don't like it.
- 24 Is that an accurate description?

- 1 A. That is how I would characterize a lot
- 2 of what was said by the members.
- 3 Q. You then went on, I believe, to say, at
- 4 least I heard part of it, some people didn't
- 5 like where the buildings were placed. Do you
- 6 recall that?
- 7 A. Yeah. It was, again, very nebulous. It
- 8 is basically exactly opposite of how as a
- 9 planning professional I advise anyone on a board
- 10 that I am staffing to answer a question, and how
- 11 as a volunteer I've been advised to answer a
- 12 question. We're advised to give very specific
- 13 reasons that tie directly into your guiding
- 14 documents and not speculate and/or express our
- 15 personal opinions without having a solid reason,
- 16 and that's what I felt was happening a lot at
- 17 that meeting.
- 18 Q. You would agree that the staff report
- 19 did give a specific concern about the unit
- 20 counts on the mixed use piece, right?
- 21 MR. INGRAM: Objection.
- 22 Mischaracterizes this witness's prior testimony.
- 23 A. I agree it did give -- it did state a
- 24 concern. I don't agree that that is an accurate

- 1 interpretation of this document.
- Q. And you don't agree with the concern, I
- 3 assume, right?
- 4 A. I don't agree with the concern.
- 5 Q. Do you think in your professional
- 6 opinion that the 2014 focus area plan should
- 7 provide specific densities for the mixed use or
- 8 a specific acreage or percentage of greenspace?
- 9 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for
- 10 speculation.
- 11 A. I think that the way that it was handled
- 12 was accurate and the way -- or advisable in the
- 13 way that a planning document can set up a form
- 14 for mixed use. Mixed use is hard to prescribe.
- 15 Involves market conditions and site conditions.
- 16 And by setting up an overall framework, it is
- 17 more successful in leading to a quality outcome.
- 18 Whereas, the individual districts that were
- 19 prescribed as transition districts --
- 20 residential districts to transition into the
- 21 existing residential I understand why they
- 22 prescribed the density in order to satisfy that
- land use continuum from a dense urban frontage
- 24 from a less dense situation that would mirror

- 1 what was next to it.
- 2 Q. And you would agree from a planning
- 3 perspective that not prescribing specific
- 4 densities for the mixed use portion or specific
- 5 greenspace numbers allows some flexibility when
- 6 considering a specific application, right?
- 7 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Misstates this
- 8 witness's prior testimony.
- 9 A. I would say it allows flexibility, and
- 10 it also allows the form to be the most -- the
- 11 main focus of the development review which for
- 12 my practice and for most of the cities that I've
- 13 worked with -- all the cities in recent times
- 14 has been a primary concern of their development
- 15 process.
- 16 Q. Would you agree that every -- that
- 17 different local governments have different
- 18 rezoning processes?
- 19 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for
- 20 speculation. Ambiguous and vague.
- 21 A. I am aware of several different
- 22 municipalities zoning processes, and yes, they
- 23 have some different elements to each.
- Q. And I'm curious. You've testified

- 1 earlier you've done some out-of-state work. Do
- 2 you find differences outside of Ohio than you
- 3 would here in central Ohio?
- 4 MR. INGRAM: Same objections.
- 5 A. I have, yet surprisingly not very
- 6 different.
- 7 Q. That was a legitimate -- I was very
- 8 curious about that.
- 9 A. Depends on the state, but oftentimes not
- 10 very different.
- 11 Q. Sure. And you would agree every local
- 12 government has different zoning classifications
- 13 and different uses, land uses under those
- 14 classifications and varying degrees of
- 15 specificity in their comprehensive plans, right?
- 16 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for
- 17 speculation, ambiguous, incomplete hypothetical.
- 18 A. I can say just for the communities that
- 19 I've worked in that there have been
- 20 distinctions.
- Q. You indicate in your report that the
- 22 process should be collaborative, right?
- A. (Nods head).
- Q. Between the developer and the city?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know what collaboration or what
- 3 discussions city staff had with Lifestyle?
- 4 A. I'm not aware of the full breadth of
- 5 those. What I am aware of is the fact that at
- 6 the planning commission in a circumstance that
- 7 in my entire, you know, 26 now years of
- 8 experience would indicate is the exact time that
- 9 a tabling would occur after a discussion in the
- 10 early stages, a conceptual stage that was even
- 11 mentioned several times, though different cities
- 12 call that different things, of a PUD that you
- 13 would absolutely table that application by the
- 14 request of the applicant in order to facilitate
- 15 the interactive process with staff by stopping
- 16 that and then effectively creating a situation
- 17 where the ARB had to deny it as well because
- 18 there was effectively nothing to table. You've
- 19 cut off the opportunity for staff to have that
- 20 interaction with the applicant instead of
- 21 promoting that which is essentially what a PUD
- 22 is all about. Whether you agree or disagree
- 23 with the provisions of the PUD process, that
- 24 central tenant of a PUD is it has to be

- 1 collaborative throughout the entire process.
- Q. But you're not aware of what
- 3 collaboration happened before that point, right?
- 4 A. Only from what I read in the complaint.
- 5 Q. Because you didn't talk to anyone from
- 6 Lifestyle or the city, right?
- 7 A. Correct.
- Q. Are you aware that Lifestyle's previous
- 9 proposal was tabled to make changes per staff
- 10 request?
- 11 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Assumes facts
- 12 not in evidence.
- 13 A. Only aware of what I read in the staff
- 14 report.
- 15 Q. Is that what the staff report said?
- MR. INGRAM: Same objection.
- 17 A. That is what the staff report indicated,
- 18 yes.
- 19 Q. Do you have any reason to --
- 20 A. I will clarify I don't recall it
- 21 actually saying tabling, but the staff report
- 22 referred to an earlier application.
- 23 Q. And it referred to an earlier
- 24 application where feedback was given by the city

- 1 staff to the developer that led the developer to
- 2 amend the plan, correct?
- 3 MR. INGRAM: Objection.
- 4 Mischaracterizes the evidence in the record,
- 5 Counsel. And assumes facts not in evidence.
- 6 Objection to form.
- 7 You can answer if you can.
- 8 A. The only element that I'm aware of was
- 9 the request for additional office which
- 10 according to the staff report accommodated and,
- 11 you know, comparing the plans clearly.
- 12 Q. And that was the only feedback that you
- 13 recall seeing for that original?
- 14 A. For the original that's the only
- 15 feedback I recall seeing.
- 16 Q. Are you aware of the city taking any
- 17 action to rezone this property outside of
- 18 Lifestyle's proposals?
- 19 A. No.
- Q. I think you've indicated a couple times
- 21 and you, I believe, indicate in your report
- 22 there was little substance for the
- 23 recommendation of the denial by the staff,
- 24 right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- Q. I'm going to have you turn back to what
- 3 we've marked as Exhibit 141, which is the staff
- 4 memorandum and the Lifestyle proposal, and I'll
- 5 have you turn specifically to what's labeled in
- 6 the bottom right-hand corner page 47 of 201,
- 7 please. Let me know when you're there.
- 8 A. I am there.
- 9 Q. Do you see the bold Staff
- 10 Comments/Analysis?
- 11 A. The words Staff Comments/Analysis?
- 12 Q. Yes.
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. First sentence under that heading you
- 15 would agree that staff has indicated in the
- 16 report that they've compared the materials to
- 17 the language in the 2014 comprehensive plan
- 18 update?
- 19 A. They have indicated that in this report,
- 20 yes.
- Q. And they've included a list of
- 22 discussion topics that they then discuss in the
- 23 report which includes the residential density,
- 24 heights, housing types, mix of land uses,

- 1 greenspace, open space, park land, traffic, and
- 2 bike and pedestrian accommodations. Do you see
- 3 that?
- 4 A. I do.
- 5 Q. You would agree that in discussing the
- 6 residential density staff provided a history of
- 7 the proposals and indicated that the proposal
- 8 was still too dense from their perspective. Is
- 9 that a fair characterization of what staff
- 10 states?
- 11 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for
- 12 speculation.
- 13 A. Yes. They believe -- staff believes
- 14 that density should be reduced.
- 15 Q. What to you is not clear about the need
- 16 to reduce housing density?
- 17 A. There is no requirement within that plan
- 18 for density, and the form of the proposal
- 19 creates its own density limit. There is no
- 20 indication in any of that planning, which was a
- 21 year-long, robust community process, that there
- 22 needs to be or is a density limit in that area.
- 23 And the entire purpose of that was to create a
- 24 flexible mixed use district. So there is no --

- 1 absolutely no reason why this plan in any way
- 2 supports lowering density or creates a situation
- 3 whereby density would have to be lowered to
- 4 conform to the 2014 plan.
- 5 MR. INGRAM: And for purposes of the
- 6 record --
- 7 A. I pointed to the 2014 plan.
- 8 MR. INGRAM: -- the witness is pointing
- 9 to Exhibit 1.
- 10 MR. ASHRAWI: Thank you.
- 11 Q. You would agree that the staff also
- 12 indicated the need for additional housing types
- including single-level living "which is one of
- 14 the key things we have heard from our residents
- 15 that they would like to see offered in the
- 16 community". Do you agree with that statement?
- 17 A. That they said that?
- 18 Q. Yes.
- 19 A. Yes, the staff said that.
- Q. What is unclear about the desire for
- 21 additional options for single-level living?
- 22 A. One of the themes that runs through the
- 23 staff report is that they are interpreting
- 24 the -- they're interpreting what they believe

- 1 they have heard from the community outside of
- 2 this robust community development process that
- 3 reviewed the 2014 adopted plan, and speculating
- 4 on what they think are the most important
- 5 elements that they may or may not have heard by
- 6 some portions of the community.
- 7 As a professional reviewing plans, I
- 8 have to look to the most robust public process
- 9 that was taken place and the resulting
- 10 documentation that came out of that as the
- 11 guide. Any individual can have any concern in
- 12 any community, and you know, in a community of
- 13 14 and a half thousand people there's no way to
- 14 know whether that housing option to me was a
- 15 significant portion and/or whether it should be
- 16 accommodated here or elsewhere.
- 17 In order to understand that, I would
- 18 look at the overall comprehensive plan, the
- 19 overall set of focus areas as a staff planner,
- 20 and I would look on this site to this guiding
- 21 document. And I would try to understand the
- 22 greater balance of land uses throughout the
- 23 community and not ascribe any specific desire
- 24 only to one spot if that spot, in fact, was

- 1 outlined very clearly in a focus area plan.
- Q. Safe to say you disagree with staff's
- 3 comments as part of this proposal?
- 4 A. I disagree with the comments that don't
- 5 align with the 2014 strategetic analysis,
- 6 particularly ones that specifically cite what
- 7 the community desires due to the fact that this
- 8 is the document that was produced by a
- 9 community -- robust community input.
- 10 In my interpretation as a planner, the
- 11 2014 strategetic analysis is what the community
- 12 desires until it's adopted or replaced through
- 13 another robust process that would be -- I don't
- 14 know if it has to be a year, but it certainly
- 15 has to involve a great deal of public input and
- 16 a series of public meetings and recommendations
- 17 by both the architectural review board and the
- 18 planning commission before council could act on
- 19 a replacement for that.
- Q. So I'm trying to understand how you go
- 21 exclusively from the 2014 focus area to an
- 22 acceptable plan where we've just discussed there
- 23 are no objective greenspace requirements or
- 24 density requirements for a mixed use. So let me

- 1 ask you in your professional capacity if
- 2 Lifestyle's proposal included no residential
- 3 units in the mixed use area because there's no
- 4 density requirement whatsoever, that would
- 5 conform to the plan, right?
- 6 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for
- 7 speculation. Incomplete hypothetical.
- 8 A. If Lifestyles create a building
- 9 structure that was in conformance with this plan
- 10 and included the uses that are outlined in this
- 11 plan, it would be in conformance. What the
- 12 question is, is what is proposed is in
- 13 conformance. We could speculate a whole manner
- of things that could be proposed, and that's the
- 15 essence of both the guiding plan and the PUD.
- 16 And the process of getting to those specific
- 17 outcomes in a PUD is what's happened every time
- 18 a PUD has been utilized -- well, almost every
- 19 time a PUD is utilized in almost every
- 20 community.
- One of the challenges of a PUD is, of
- 22 course, it is a bit burdensome to get to those
- 23 final specific elements with the development
- text and the development plan and then

- 1 subsequent need to amend and update any of those
- 2 elements, which is why a lot of communities
- 3 don't use PUDs anymore, and they've gone to more
- 4 form-based zoning which is not available in
- 5 Worthington.
- If we were advising on this site in
- 7 another community, we would probably advise them
- 8 to actually rezone the property with a
- 9 form-based approach, and then you would have
- 10 those specific standards. You wouldn't have to
- 11 go through the iterative process that
- 12 Worthington's code dictates.
- 13 Q. So this is not zoned for form-based
- 14 zoning, right?
- 15 A. It is not.
- 16 Q. And my question is generally -- I'm
- 17 generally -- genuinely curious what staff and
- 18 the city's role in this. If you're telling me
- 19 there's any number of proposals that in your
- 20 opinion would conform to this, what is staff and
- 21 the city's role in adopting a PUD then?
- 22 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Calls for
- 23 speculation. Vague. Ambiguous.
- 24 You can answer to the extent you can.

1 I don't know what the Worthington Α. 2 staff's role is. I can tell you what my role 3 has been, and I helped adopt the, at that point, 4 1600-acre New Albany Company PUD in the Village 5 of New Albany back when it was a village. 6 our role was rigorous, and it was highly involved, and we worked in an incredibly 7 8 repetitive and iterative fashion throughout an extensive public process that took the base 9 plans that we already had in place, applied 10 11 those through architectural and planning 12 evaluation, determined all of the specific 13 elements that were going to take place in the 14 In fact, it's one of the most rigorous PUD. times a planner can be involved. 15 16 And I don't believe that that has taken 17 place from what I'm reading in the Worthington 18 case in that the staff report mostly does a 19 light evaluation of a conceptual plan based on this adopted 2014 plan in a way that I don't 20 21 think syncs, and relies extremely heavily on 22 speculation about what the community wants in 23 absence of looking to what was established

through a year-long community process.

24

- 1 Q. Was there -- when you were working for
- 2 the Village of New Albany, you said that the PUD
- 3 process was one of the times that a planner
- 4 could most rigorously be involved in the PUD
- 5 process, right?
- 6 A. Absolutely.
- 7 Q. That's because there's flexibility in
- 8 density, uses, forms, et cetera, right?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. So when you were working on that
- 11 1600-acre PUD, was there a comprehensive plan
- 12 that you were relying on?
- 13 A. There was.
- Q. Did it still require a rezoning to PUD?
- 15 A. It did.
- 16 Q. Was the city in favor of the final
- 17 product?
- 18 A. You have to -- can you rephrase?
- 19 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Form.
- Q. The city eventually -- the city council
- 21 eventually had to approve that PUD, right?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- Q. How long did that process take?
- 24 A. Years.

- 1 O. And there were iterations of the plan.
- 2 right?
- 3 A. There were iterations along the way, and
- 4 in every, every step of the way the plan was
- 5 moved forward or tabled by every single board
- 6 that ever heard it, and it was far, far more
- 7 complex than what this is. And every board was
- 8 willing to allow staff to have that latitude to
- 9 keep talking to the applicant and to figure out
- 10 the very extensive details that were necessary
- 11 in order to implement it.
- 12 And on a simpler PUD that's a fraction
- of the acres that seems like it would be the
- 14 least thing that you would do, is allow the
- 15 staff to continually -- that's my alarm. Excuse
- 16 me.
- 17 (Pause in the proceedings).
- 18 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 19 Q. Mr. Sudy, when you were working on the
- 20 PUD in New Albany, was there discussion about
- 21 residential density?
- 22 A. There was.
- Q. And there was some back and forth on
- 24 changes in density, right?

- 1 A. There were.
- 2 O. And there were discussions on the mix of
- 3 housing options in that area, right?
- 4 A. There were.
- 5 Q. And the final and end product that was
- 6 approved by city council was less dense than
- 7 what it was proposed originally, right?
- 8 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Assumes facts
- 9 not in evidence. And this whole line of
- 10 questioning is entirely irrelevant. You can
- 11 answer to the extent you can.
- 12 A. Well, there's multiple parts to that. A
- 13 part of it was approved that was less dense, and
- 14 then it was modified to be much more dense.
- 15 Q. What part was that?
- 16 A. Village center.
- 17 Q. Have you looked at any other PUD
- 18 rezonings that the City of Worthington has
- 19 undertaken?
- 20 A. I have not.
- Q. Are you aware of the -- if the city has
- 22 undertaken any other PUD rezonings?
- 23 A. I am not.
- Q. So you don't know what process the city

- 1 has utilized in the past for other PUD
- 2 rezonings?
- 3 MR. INGRAM: Objection. Misstates this
- 4 witness's prior testimony.
- 5 A. I know it's outlined in the code which
- 6 is very similar to the other PUD. I would hope
- 7 that they would conform to that process.
- 8 Q. Is there a requirement for continued
- 9 staff engagement in the code after an
- 10 application has been filed?
- 11 A. I can't speak to that. It is such a
- 12 foregone conclusion and especially for PUDs.
- Q. But you don't know whether that's in the
- 14 zoning code?
- 15 A. I do not know.
- 16 Q. Are you aware of the other proposals,
- 17 any other PUD proposal or development proposal
- 18 that have been submitted to the city for this
- 19 site prior to Lifestyle's?
- A. Am I aware of any other PUD proposals?
- 21 I am not.
- Q. Are you aware of any other proposals or
- 23 considerations for the subject property's
- 24 development prior to Lifestyle's?

- 1 A. I'm aware that there was a proposal, but
- 2 I'm very unfamiliar with it.
- 3 Q. So you don't know any of the details of
- 4 that proposal?
- 5 A. All I know is it was for a grocery
- 6 store, and that's all I know.
- 7 Q. You mention in your report that
- 8 Lifestyle was cut off from interactive and
- 9 timely review. My question is related to the
- 10 timely review portion. Are you suggesting that
- 11 there was an untimely review of something?
- 12 A. It's very hard to define the specific
- 13 elements of a process from the outside. So you
- 14 have to look for indicators of what that might
- 15 be. And particularly at the planning commission
- 16 hearing where the applicant seemed very eager to
- 17 understand any of the suggestions that were
- 18 concrete that were offered, that would indicate
- 19 that in the ensuing time between their earlier
- 20 proposal there had been very little guidance
- 21 given to them, and that is -- while developers
- 22 can take whatever time they want to move forward
- 23 and amend an application, you know, once that
- 24 process is in place as a city staff or an acting

- 1 city staff member, we feel it incumbent upon
- 2 ourselves to give feedback as quickly and as
- 3 immediately as we can. So that's as much as I
- 4 can tell from the indications of the outcomes.
- 5 And then certainly after that, after
- 6 being denied without a tabling, you know, then
- 7 they're basically put in a situation where they
- 8 have to move forward with an existing denied
- 9 application and have no forward progress in that
- 10 amount of time until they go through the council
- 11 process.
- 12 Q. Thank you for that explanation. I just
- 13 wanted to clarify whether there was a certain
- 14 timeline that was not met by code. So just to
- 15 clarify is that -- is that not the case?
- MR. INGRAM: Objection. Asked and
- 17 answered.
- 18 A. Yeah. I can't speak to the code aspect.
- 19 Q. Who authored and wrote up this report?
- 20 A. I did.
- Q. Did you receive any assistance from
- 22 anyone?
- 23 A. I did not.
- Q. Anyone type it for you?

- 1 A. No. I wish somebody would have.
- Q. Are there other drafts of this report?
- 3 A. Probably.
- 4 Q. Would those drafts be contained in your
- 5 working file?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Are there redline versions of this
- 8 report?
- 9 A. Clarify. Can you clarify?
- 10 Q. Sure. Have you exchanged or have you
- 11 redlined your report? You know, Word provides
- 12 an opportunity to redline, make redline changes.
- 13 A. I can't say as I necessarily did a track
- 14 change.
- 15 Q. Would anyone else have redlined this
- 16 report?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Have you ever seen a rezoning request be
- 19 denied?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. In your position as the chair of the
- 22 Italian Village Commission, has that board ever
- 23 recommended a denial of a rezoning?
- A. I can't speak for the whole history of

- 1 the board. In the last 20 years, you know, I
- 2 don't know if we have. We may not have. I'd
- 3 have to look back at the record. I don't know.
- 4 We try to be very collaborative and hopefully
- 5 get it to a resolution. I can't say for certain
- 6 honestly.
- 7 MR. ASHRAWI: Why don't we take a very
- 8 short break and I may be wrapped up. I'm going
- 9 to try to extend this as long as I can.
- 10 (Recess taken).
- 11 BY MR. ASHRAWI:
- 12 Q. Mr. Sudy, you would agree with me that
- 13 there are four different zoning classifications
- 14 currently on the subject property. Is that
- 15 right?
- 16 A. Yes, I believe that's true. I have to
- 17 look at that.
- 18 Q. I'll actually direct your attention to
- 19 what's previously been marked as Exhibit 5.
- This is a document you said you hadn't seen
- 21 before. I thought this was what you referenced
- in your report when you noted reviewing
- 23 materials from the city's website, 1033 High
- 24 Street?

- 1 A. This is not clear to me this is from the
- 2 website. Is this -- can you explain the origin
- 3 of this document?
- 4 Q. Sure. It is on the website under this
- 5 heading. You can sort of see the Worthington
- 6 emblem that's been --
- 7 A. Gotcha.
- 8 Q. -- Xeroxed probably several times. But
- 9 in any event I'll ask you just to turn to the
- 10 second page or the back of the front page, and
- 11 this document lists out the zoning districts for
- 12 the property. Can you just confirm based on
- 13 your understanding those are the zoning
- 14 districts that you understand to be on the
- 15 property?
- 16 A. I need to look at the zoning map again
- 17 to verify that those are the actual names of the
- 18 zoning districts. I'm not familiar with the
- 19 code to that extent I reviewed based on...
- Q. Let me ask you this. You would agree
- 21 that the majority of the property is zoned this
- 22 S1 special district. Do you recall that?
- 23 A. Let me look at the -- I believe it was
- 24 outlined here in this plan. I'm looking at the

- 1 comprehensive plan so this could be
- 2 significantly out of date. Maybe it's in the --
- 3 oh, it's in this plan. 2014 plan. So according
- 4 to the zoning map provided in the 2014
- 5 strategetic analysis the majority of the site is
- 6 S1.
- 7 Q. And you reviewed the permitted uses
- 8 under S1, right?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. And you would agree that examples of
- 11 permitted uses include recreational facilities,
- 12 government buildings and service buildings. Is
- 13 that -- based on your recollection, is that
- 14 accurate?
- 15 A. I'm assuming that the -- by your -- this
- 16 review that the city has accurately represented
- 17 what is in their zoning code. I would have to
- 18 see a copy of the actual zoning code in order to
- 19 verify that that was, in fact, the correct uses
- 20 that they've listed.
- Q. Let me ask a more general question. You
- 22 would agree that the S1 district allows some
- 23 uses on that property, right?
- 24 A. Yes.

	December 19, 2020
1	Q. Okay.
2	MR. ASHRAWI: Those are all the
3	questions I have. Thank you for your time
4	today, Mr. Sudy.
5	THE WITNESS: Absolutely.
6	COURT REPORTER: Read and sign?
7	MR. INGRAM: Yes.
8	COURT REPORTER: Ordering?
9	MR. ASHRAWI: Yes, please.
10	COURT REPORTER: Copy?
11	MR. INGRAM: Yes, please.
12	(Signature not waived.)
13	-=O=-
14	Thereupon, the testimony of December
15	19, 2023, was concluded at 4:18 p.m.
16	-=O=-
17	
18	
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24	

Page 119 1 CERTIFICATE 2 STATE OF OHIO SS: 3 COUNTY OF FRANKLIN: 4 I, Julia Lamb, RPR, CRR, a stenographic court reporter and notary public in and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and 5 qualified, do hereby certify that the within-named JASON SUDY was first duly sworn to 6 testify to the truth, the whole truth, and 7 nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the testimony then given was taken down by 8 me stenographically in the presence of said witness, afterwards transcribed; that the 9 foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony; that this deposition was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption 10 specified. 11 I do further certify that I am not a 12 relative, employee or attorney of any of the parties hereto; that I am not a relative or 13 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto; that I am not financially 14 interested in the action; and further, I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under contract as defined in Civil 15 Rule 28(D). 16 In witness whereof, I have hereunto 17 set my hand at Columbus, Ohio, on this 4th day of January, 2024. 18 19 Julia Lamb 20 21 Julia Lamb, RPR, CRR 22 Notary Public, State of Ohio My commission expires: 23 10-10-27

24

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